

Arafat to visit Oslo this month

OSLO (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will visit Norway at the end of October to discuss the stalled Middle East peace process, a Norwegian foreign ministry spokesman said Wednesday. Mr. Arafat was invited by Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland for a "bilateral visit" the spokesman, Ingvald Havnen, said, adding the trip would take place Oct. 28 and 29. But he stressed "there are no plans for any negotiation with Israel" during the Palestinian leader's trip, saying merely that "given Norway's role in (the peace) process, we considered it appropriate to invite Arafat." Norway hosted secret talks in 1993 between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) which laid the groundwork for the Oslo peace accords signed in Washington in September of that year, and led to the launch of Palestinian autonomy.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

King pays for girl's operation

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has not only paid for a sick little girl's operation but also he flew her home on Wednesday by himself, the AP reported from Bridgend, England. It said the King heard last month that two-year-old Emily Casey had a heart operation postponed five times at a hospital near her home in South Wales because of a backlog. The King paid for Emily to fly to the U.S. for treatment by five top-flight heart surgeons and also for her parents' stay in the U.S. He will also pay for her after-care service. King Hussein tried not to publicise his contribution, but British journalists found him out, the AP said. The King was on hand when Emily landed in London on Wednesday to fly the last leg of her journey home to Bridgend in his helicopter.

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Netanyahu seeks to address brewing crisis with Jordan

King said to have told Israeli premier to drop 'arrogance of power'

By R.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Israeli leadership on Wednesday discussed the brewing crisis with Jordan following the Kingdom's rejection of the Jewish state's unilateral moves to change the status of Arab East Jerusalem and demand that Israel live up to its commitments to peace agreements signed with the Palestinians, Israeli reports said.

The reports said Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in a bid to defuse the crisis triggered by his decision last month to open a new entrance to a controversial tunnel near Muslim holy shrines in Arab East Jerusalem was

planning to send his senior advisor Dore Gold to Jordan to discuss the issue.

The crisis talks signalled a realisation in Israel that its relations with Jordan were under a serious strain despite its efforts to play down the differences with the Kingdom and project an image of business as usual, observers said.

Mr. Netanyahu himself was quoted as saying late Tuesday that the differences with Jordan "could happen to the best of relationships" and were nothing but an occasional irritant in the Jewish state's ties with the Kingdom.

"It is a normal disagreement between friends such as one finds in every family," Mr. Netanyahu told

Israel Television.

But a senior foreign ministry official was quoted as saying by AFP that "it is the first time since" the signing of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty in October 1994 that "we are in crisis" with the Kingdom.

"The coldness with Jordan is just one of the signs... of a dramatic plunge in relations between Israel and the Arab World," the official was quoted as saying.

Jordanian Ambassador to Tel Aviv Omar Rifai agreed. He told Radio Israel on Wednesday that the "crisis of confidence" was not limited to Jordan and Israel but Israel and the entire Arab World.

The situation in the Palestinian territories, which are

under an Israeli siege, Israel's continued policy of expanding settlements in the Palestinian lands and its violation of the sanctity of Islamic shrines as well as the non-implementation of the agreements with the Palestinians ignited last month's Israeli-Palestinian violence, said the ambassador.

Mr. Rifai reaffirmed that Jordan rejects any renegotiation of the accords signed between Israel and any Arab party, and demands that these accords be implemented to the letter immediately.

But Wednesday's Israeli newspapers and the crisis meeting clearly showed that Israel was taking the

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan accomplished major part of economic programme, deserves help — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan has successfully accomplished a major part of its economic restructuring programme and the Kingdom now deserves international assistance and support, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, said Wednesday.

The Regent, in comments made to the staff of the Al Dustour and Al Aswaq newspapers during visits he paid to the dailies, addressed a wide-range of issues on the internal and external fronts.

The Crown Prince called on the Jordanian press to comprehensively address various national issues and to help find integrated solutions for inter-related issues such as poverty and unemployment.

He said human issues could be addressed through information and stressed the need for a comprehensive data bank for human and natural resources and economic

indicators.

The Regent also referred to the need to portray the right image of Islam and to fight "discrimination against Islam that distorts our Islamic identity."

Lamenting the weak and backward level of productivity in publishing books in the Arab World, the Regent called for "intellectual achievements" through "political globalisation, economic rehabilitation of the region and inter-faith dialogue."

The Regent said Arab-European dialogue should be based on a collective stand reached through inter-Arab and inter-Muslim dialogue.

Only through such a stand could the Arabs and Muslims gain international support for their causes, he pointed out.

The Regent called on Arab scholars to fight backwardness in the Arab World.

Earlier in the day, the

Regent received at the Royal Court the president and members of the Arab Federation of Publishers and urged them to help establish a research centre that would help solve problems connected with publishing.

"The Arab Thought Forum and some Arab universities are quite ready to exert efforts towards the creation of such centre," said the Regent. "With the creation of such centre, we can arrive at a new cultural project for the Arab World."

He said Arab publishers should give attention to the human, Arab and Islamic dimensions in their publications in a manner that would counter stereotyping and distorting of the Arab culture.

"There is also urgent need for work to end the Arab World's isolation from the rest of the world," said the Regent, adding that "plenty

(Continued on page 7)

King arrives in London after medical check-up

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein arrived in London Wednesday on a working visit to the United Kingdom for talks with British officials on bilateral relations and issues of common interest. Accompanying the King was Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

King Hussein left Mayo Clinic Tuesday after undergoing medical check-ups and his private physician, Samir Faraj, announced that the results showed that the King was enjoying excellent health.

The King also paid a visit to Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan of the United Arab Emirates, who is recuperating in the Mayo Clinic after a surgery and was assured of his health.

Beit Hanoun talks continue; U.S. urged to convince Israel to honour agreements

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross shuttled between top Palestinian and Israeli officials Wednesday as the Palestinians called for active American intervention to avert a new breakdown in peace talks.

Mr. Ross met for an hour and a half in Gaza city with Palestinian President Yasser Arafat after holding talks earlier with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai in West Jerusalem.

The U.S. diplomat then joined the two sides in a fourth straight day of intensive talks on the Israel-Gaza border, which have hit a dead-end over a long-overdue Israeli army redeployment from the West

Bank town of Hebron.

"We're going to do all we can to help them make progress," Mr. Ross told journalists after meeting Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Ross, whom Washington has put forward as simply a "facilitator" in this week's talks, made no mention of taking a more active role, instead counselling patience.

"We have just begun these talks in a serious way. We have to be patient and determined," he said.

But Mr. Arafat said the U.S. diplomat had "shown insistence on pushing forward the peace process to arrive at quick results."

Earlier Wednesday, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb

Erakat called on the United States to be more forceful and "oblige" the Israelis to implement signed peace agreements, notably concerning the Hebron pullout, which Israel has demanded be amended.

"Right now there is a true crisis in the talks," Mr. Erakat said.

The Palestinians have categorically rejected Israeli proposals to amend the Hebron pullout accord in a bid to provide greater security to 450 Jewish settlers living among the city's 120,000 Palestinian residents.

"There is no possibility of bridging the gaps" between the two sides over Hebron, Palestinian negotiator Has-

san Asfour said. "Israel must understand that they have no choice but to implement the signed agreements."

Mr. Erakat said Israel could break the deadlock on the future of Hebron by agreeing to move the Israeli settlers there to a nearby Jewish settlement.

But Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was certain to reject the idea. The Israeli leader insists that Jews have a right to live in Hebron.

Mr. Erakat said: "One of the easy solutions to the security concerns of Israelis who are trying to change the Hebron agreement

(Continued on page 7)

Kabariti briefs Senate on latest events

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti on Wednesday briefed the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on the latest events in the region, particularly the latest developments in the peace process on the Israeli-Palestinian track and the Jordanian position with regard to these issues at the local, regional and international levels.

Senate Speaker Ahmad Lawzi said that the meeting held at the Hall of Pictures was within the framework of continued cooperation between the executive and legislative authorities and gave the senators a chance to exchange views with Mr. Kabariti about the developments in the region.

The prime minister briefed the Senate on the details of the political and diplomatic activities of His Majesty King Hussein at the Arab-Israeli Washington summit as well as coordination over the question of Arab Jerusalem and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations," Mr. Lawzi said.

He said the briefing also covered relations between Jordan and Arab and other countries.

"The prime minister has stressed the positive developments in these relations," he said.

Mr. Kabariti also spoke about the developments in Jordanian-Israeli relations and Jordan's calls for serious efforts by all sides towards a comprehensive and lasting settlement and demands for total Israeli

commitment to the implementation of its peace agreements with the Palestinians.

"The Senate strongly supports Jordan's policies and expresses deep pride in the King's responsibility and his wisdom and continued endeavours to defend the Palestinian people's rights," said Mr. Lawzi.

He said the Senate also expressed its absolute backing for the King's efforts to safeguard the holy shrines in Jerusalem, stand vis-a-vis the opening of an entrance near the Al Aqsa Mosque compound and call for maintaining Jerusalem as the symbol of peace and security.

Mr. Kabariti briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of King Hus-

sein's meetings with officials and his talks with President Bill Clinton on supporting the peace process.

Addressing the press after the meeting, Information Minister Marwan Muasher said King Hussein has met with U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry and Jordan felt that its request to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as an ally but not as a state member received a favourable response from the U.S. administration.

Jordan is seeking to be an ally to NATO, making the country eligible for receiving modern military equipment and advanced military training for its Armed Forces, he said.

Quake jolts Mideast; no injuries or damage

Combined agency dispatches

AN EARTHQUAKE shook a wide swath of the Middle East including Jordan on Wednesday, causing buildings to sway in some places and sending people running into the streets of Cairo. It was also felt across Syria, Jordan, Lebanon, western Turkey, Cyprus and some Greek islands.

The earthquake, measuring more than six on the open-ended Richter scale, also injured 11 people in Cyprus.

Seismologist Najib Abu Karaki said that the epicentre was west of Limassol, Cyprus. He added that ten tremors had taken place, measuring 3 to 5.3 on Richter scale, but the last tremor whose epicentre was 500 kilometres away from Amman measured 5.9.

Five residents of the western port of Paphos in Cyprus were slightly injured and a number of buildings suffered mild damage, state-run Cyprus Radio said.

Landslides blocked some mountain roads in Paphos district but there were no reports of serious injuries or damage from the quake, which hit at 4:11 p.m. (1311 GMT).

In Nicosia, the Cyprus capi-

tal, filing cabinets were thrown open, plaster fell off walls, and doors jammed in their frames. Office workers ran into streets.

The quake had a preliminary magnitude of 6 to 6.1 and was centred in the Mediterranean about 50 kilometres southwest of Paphos, said Costas Cramvis of the Cyprus geological service.

In Cairo, frightened workers fled into the streets.

In Damascus, buildings shook for more than a minute but there were no reports of damage.

In Lebanon, the quake was felt in Beirut, the southern port cities of Tyre and Sidon, the northern city of Tripoli and the eastern cities of Baalbek and Zahle.

The quake was felt in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, the southern Israeli coastal town of Eilat and in Palestinian cities in the West Bank and Gaza.



"We laughed but on the 32nd floor they began to evacuate," a woman told Israel Radio. The region has a history of deadly tremors: On Nov. 22, an earthquake measuring 6.2 hit the Gulf of Aqaba, damaging several buildings and properties in Jordan, Egypt and Israel. Eight people were killed.

Army unit leaves for Slavonia

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian army unit on Wednesday left for east Slavonia to take part in the international peace keeping forces. The members were seen off by Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Abdul Hafez Mirai and other senior army officers.

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مكتبة من اجل

Jordanian women condemn Taleban's 'Sharia' decrees

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanian women activists on Wednesday denounced the strict measures the new government of Taleban in Afghanistan has imposed on women, describing these measures as "unjust and un-Islamic," and called on the international community to take quick action to counter the Taleban actions.

"The new measures applied by the Taleban government against women does not relate to the Islamic Sharia which calls for respecting women and protecting their rights," a statement issued Wednesday by the Jordanian Women's Union (JWU) said.

The fundamentalist Taleban movement captured the Afghan capital Kabul on Sept. 27, and formed a pro-

visional government. Taleban closed school for girls, barred women workers from offices until further orders and forced women to wear the traditional Islamic veil while in public.

"These measures are forcing women to centuries of darkness which Islam had fought to enforce respect for women," the JWU statement said.

The statement called on human rights organisations, the United Nations and the international community to unite their efforts to force the Taleban to rescind its measures which is considered discriminatory and "one of the toughest form of violence against women," Nawal Faouri, the first woman to be elected to the Shura Council of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), condemned the decision

taken by the Taleban to forbid women from education and employment.

"We condemn what has happened because it is against Islamic Sharia, which considers education as a basic right for all," Ms. Faouri said.

She told the Jordan Times the problem was the way Taleban were interpreting the Sharia.

"They (Taleban) are far from applying Islamic law. I believe that what they are doing is based only on their personal opinions, interpretation and moods," she asserted.

"The Islamic and international community should act quickly to stop the abuse of Sharia in order to prevent individuals from issuing personal decrees and laws based on their own interpretations," Ms. Faouri said.



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday presents medals of honour to former judges (Photo by Boghos)

Regent pays tribute to Jordanian judiciary, honours former judges

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday praised the Jordanian judiciary and said His Majesty King Hussein and the whole country appreciate the work of Jordanian judges and support their efforts.

Speaking at the Royal Court where he presented medals of honour to former Court of Cassation judges, the Regent said that the Hashemite leadership "will always be a staunch sup-

porter of efforts to enable the judiciary to maintain its excellent service to the nation."

"A country where the judges enjoy independence is appreciated in the eyes of the world," said the Regent, adding that the judiciary's independence encourages local, regional and international investments.

The following former judges were honoured on Wednesday: Tayseer Kanaan and Adib

Halaseh were each awarded the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order.

The following were presented with the Jordanian Independence Medal of the First Order: Mohammad Al Nasser, Adel Mdanat, Qasem Al Naser, Fuad Khouri, Mohammad Irshaid and Nasib Azar.

The judges expressed their appreciation to the King and Regent and said that the medals were a source of pride to the Jordanian judiciary.

One of Sadat's assassins seeks presidential pardon

CAIRO (AFP) — An Islamic militant jailed for involvement in the assassination of former Egyptian President Anwar Sadat is seeking a presidential pardon, his lawyer said on Wednesday.

Abd Al Zumar asked his lawyer, Muntasser Al Zayat, to appeal to the authorities so that he could benefit from a decree passed last month which allows prisoners who have served 15 years of their term to be released for good conduct if they are not a danger to national security.

"I met Abdud in prison 10 days ago and he asked me to petition the authorities so that he could take advantage of the presidential decree," Mr. Zayat told AFP.

Zumar, a former officer in the Egyptian intelligence service, was sentenced to hard labour for life in 1981 after being convicted of being one of the architects behind the Sadat assassina-

tion.

Zumar was also accused of being the military chief of the Muslim fundamentalist Al Jihad organisation which claimed responsibility for killing Sadat in October 1981.

On Oct. 13, Zumar will have served 15 years of his sentence.

"I have filed a request (for his early release) with the administrative court stating that Abdud had never been punished in jail and that he is known for his nationalist positions," the lawyer said.

"I also underscored that he had launched several appeals from jail urging the people to help the victims of Muslim fundamentalist attacks in Egypt in recent years," he added.

The lawyer stressed that his client had also deployed "efforts to mediate between the Islamic groups and the government in 1993 to put an end to the violence."

Turkey wants end to Greek, Cypriot exercises

ANKARA (R) — Turkey on Wednesday called on Greece and Cyprus not to repeat what it described as aggressive and provocative joint military exercises off the Turkish coast.

"We expect such exercises to end immediately. Otherwise precautions matching this kind of provocations and actions may be put on the agenda," foreign Ministry Spokesman Sermet Atacani told a news briefing.

A Turkish F-16 fighter, intercepted by Greek planes, crashed on Tuesday near the Eastern Aegean island of Chios during Greek war games. One pilot was rescued and a search operation was launched for the second, said Erdogan.

The crash occurred on the last day of joint Greek and Cypriot military exercises — "nikiforos" on Cyprus and "toxiotos" in the southern Aegean.

The exercises stem from a 1993 military pact between Greece and the Cypriot government.

"We see them (the exercises) as a military and political escalation, threatening peace and stability in the region," Mr. Atacani said.

A dispute over the sovereignty of Aegean islands has this year put further pressure on already strained relations between Turkey and Greece, with both countries frequently issuing mutual protests about airspace violations by military aircraft. The two countries are also at odds over the status of Cyprus.

Pentagon admits missteps in dealing with Gulf war syndrome questions

WASHINGTON (AP) — Frustrated by continued suspicion from the veterans community, the Pentagon acknowledges its own mistakes contributed to a credibility gap on its handling of Gulf war illness.

Five years after the end of the Gulf conflict, the Pentagon has found no soldier who died or suffered serious illness due to exposure to chemical agents, a Pentagon spokesman said Tuesday.

Only now is the military painstakingly reconstructing a demolition operation in March 1991 that may have dispersed two tonnes of deadly sarin gas over an area crowded with U.S. troops. If there were injuries, investigators speculate they may have been involved less drastic symptoms. But so far, officials have drawn no link between the incident and the thousands of cases of so-called Gulf war syndrome.

The difficulty of coming up with firm answers is the main reason for the frustration among veterans, according to Captain Michael Doubleday, the Pentagon spokesman. But Capt. Doubleday acknowledged the Pentagon made its own problems more difficult through poor management of the information it gradually uncovered about chemical weapons exposure in the Gulf.

"There have been instances in the past where we have made a very considerable effort to get information out as soon as it became known," he said. For example, the Pentagon briefed reporters about the demolition of an ammunition bunker in March 1991 and only later found out that more chemical munitions

were destroyed nearby in an open pit.

"Because we don't have the full story of what happened operationally and we are having to recreate that information," Capt. Doubleday said, "it sometimes appears as though we are being less than forthcoming. But in fact we are making a very concerted effort."

There have been several sudden turns in the Gulf war illness story this year.

Where the Pentagon repeatedly said Iraq did not use chemical weapons against the coalition, the Pentagon is now investigating the possibility that Iraq used mustard gas against ethnic Arabs in southern Iraq just after the war, when U.S. troops were still in the area.

The number of troops who may have been exposed in the bunker demolition job has risen steadily, with the Pentagon now examining whether as many as 130,000 may have been in the area.

And while the Pentagon has taken pride in declassifying thousands of documents relating to Gulf war operations, defence investigators are trying to find eight missing pages from a chemical weapons briefing log — pages that include the date of the March bunker demolition. At home, thousands of veterans — there are no precise estimates, according to the American Legion Veterans Organisation — say they have suffered various symptoms from fatigue to headaches to stomach ailments to nervous disorders stemming from their Gulf service. And despite extensive and costly efforts by the Pentagon to sort through the problem, resentment towards the military from the veterans community is running high.

NEWS IN BRIEF

WHO urges support to Palestinians

LAHORE (AFP) — The World Health Organisation (WHO) regional committee for the Eastern Mediterranean, concluding its 43rd session here Wednesday, called for sustained medical support to Palestinians. The meeting, attended by senior health officials from 21 regional states including Pakistan, expressed concern at the "deterioration" of health conditions in both occupied and self-ruled Palestinian territories. A resolution adopted by the committee urged the WHO and member states to continue medical support to the Palestinian people. The committee also formulated recommendations on health promotion in the region, including a call to implement an existing regional plan for tobacco control. During the meeting, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto personally received a WHO medal awarded to Pakistan for becoming the only Eastern Mediterranean country to completely eradicate guinea-worm disease.

Ex-husband of Sarah Netanyahu plans book

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The former husband of Israeli first lady Sarah Netanyahu plans to publish a book about their marriage, the Israeli media reported Wednesday. Doron Neuberger, 37, told the Yediot Aharonot newspaper that he decided to write the memoirs because he was concerned that his ex-wife was involved in decision-making within the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and that the public had the right to know more about her. According to Israel's Channel 2 Television, aides to the prime minister tried to prevent publication of the book and other media said Sarah Netanyahu had sought unsuccessfully to contact Mr. Neuberger to convince him to back down. Mr. Neuberger, a teacher of handicapped children, was married to Sarah for seven years. The couple divorced in 1987 and she married Benjamin Netanyahu in 1991.

Iranian newspaper gives thumb's down to Jackson

TEHRAN (AFP) — A conservative Iranian newspaper on Wednesday panned Michael Jackson's first concert in Tunis, denouncing the Tunisian authorities for allowing a "pervent" to sing on "Islamic soil." "The Tunisian government committed an immoral and dangerous act to itself and to the Arab-Islamic community" by allowing Jackson to perform, said the newspaper Jomhuri Islami, a mouthpiece for Iran's Islamic conservatives. Denouncing Jackson as a "symbol of Western immorality," the newspaper said allowing him to sing in Tunisia was "an unacceptable assault on the Arab-Muslim identity of the Tunisian people."

Arap Moi invites Somali leaders

NAIROBI (AFP) — Two leading Somali faction leaders have arrived here for possible talks to end the long drawn-out conflict in Somalia, sources close to the factions confirmed here on Wednesday. A spokesman for Hussein Mohammed Aided, who leads a faction in the United Somali Congress/Somali National Alliance (USC/SNA), said his faction leader arrived in Nairobi at noon on Tuesday at the invitation of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi, but could not say why they had been invited. A spokesman for Ali Mahdi Mohammed, the leader of the Somali Salvation Alliance (SSA) which controls north Mogadishu, also confirmed the arrival of his faction leader on Wednesday afternoon, but declined to give reasons for his visit. It was not yet clear whether Osman Hassan Ali Ato, who controls a rival faction in the USC/SNA, had also arrived in the Kenyan capital.

Egypt's 'iron lady' to be extradited from Greece

CAIRO (AFP) — An Egyptian businesswoman known here as the "iron lady" and who is wanted for multi-million dollar fraud has been arrested in Greece and will be extradited to Egypt soon, police sources said on Wednesday. Hoda Abdul Monem was arrested on Monday at her estate home in Athens by the Greek authorities in cooperation with Egyptian police, and will be returned to Cairo in the next few days, they said. The "iron lady" fled from Egypt in 1988 with more than 200 million pounds (\$65 million) which she had raised by selling Egyptian nationals fictitious apartments through her construction firm Hedico Misr. She was sued by her victims, tried in absentia and sentenced to various prison terms. Ms. Abdul Monem became so notorious that her story was made into a film two years ago, "Hoda and his excellency the cabinet minister," provoking protests from the "iron lady" who threatened to sue.

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PROGRAMME TWO

14:05Liris
14:30Take Your Pick
15:00French Programmes
15:30Feature Film
17:00News Flash
17:01Feature Film (continued)
18:00French Programmes
19:30News Headlines
19:35Pacific Station
20:01American Chart Show
20:30Material World
21:00Kung Fu
22:00News in English
22:30Feature Film
23:59Taratta

PRAYER TIMES

04:14Fajr
05:31Sunrise/Duha
11:23Dhuhr
14:41Asr
17:15Maghrob
18:32Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweifeh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terra Sancta Church Tel.
623366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826.
Armenian Catholic Church
Tel. 771331.

JORDAN TIMES

readings: Amman 50 per cent, Aqaba 46 per cent.

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Dr. Khalid El Khatib816715
Dr. Nidal As'ad751672
Firas pharmacy661912
Fardows pharmacy778336
Al Asama pharmacy637055
Al Salam pharmacy636730
Yacoub pharmacy644945
Shmeisani pharmacy637660
Nairokh pharmacy623672
Najib pharmacy847632

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures are expected to rise during the weekend with winds easterly to northeasterly moderate. On Saturday, temperatures will drop, skies will be partly cloudy, with showers expected in different areas. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman15/28
Aqaba20/23
Deserts13/30
Jordan Valley20/33

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 24, Aqaba 31 Humidity

Public Security Department
630321
Hotel Complaints605800
Price Complaints661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints897467
Amman Municipality Complaints787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)121
Overseas Calls010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs661101
Jordan Television773111
Radio Jordan774111
Water Authority680100
Jordan Electricity Authority815615
Electric Power Company636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

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Dr. Mazen Abu Bakir 276852
Al Quds pharmacy(—)
ZARQA:
Dr. Nabil Saffarini901323
Khalifeh pharmacy985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade617101
Blood Bank775121
Highway Police843402
Traffic Police896390

Al-Ahli, Abdali6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen777101/3
Al-Bashir775111/26
Army, Marka891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital602340/50
Amal Hospital674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital09983323
Zarqa National Hospital09900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital09990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital0275555
Greek Catholic Hospital0272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital021247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital03131411

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre81381332
Khalidi Maternity644281/6
Aklieh Maternity642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity642362
Malhas, J. Amman636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital669131
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Al-Muasher Hospital667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

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ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights:
05:35Beirut (RJ)
05:40 Aqaba, Frankfurt (add) (RJ)
06:15Moscow (RJ)
07:00 Zagreb (Marka Airport) (RJ)
11:15 Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:15Rome (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)
11:30Aqaba, Paris (RJ)
12:20Athens (RJ)
12:25London (RJ)
19:35Lamaca (RJ)
20:20Jeddah (RJ)
20:45Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:10 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:30Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
21:40Cairo (RJ)

Other Flights
13:00Riyadh (SV)
13:40Sharjah (AH)
19:35Cairo (MS)
20:55Paris, Damascus (AF)
20:10Beirut (ME)
20:40Tel Aviv (LY)
22:20Istanbul (TK)
22:40Amsterdam (KL)
23:25London (RJ)
02:00Rome (AZ)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
08:50Aqaba (RW)
18:45Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15Sanaa (RJ)

Other Flights
09:05Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:20Beirut (RJ)
09:30New Delhi (RJ)
09:35Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:05Colombo (RJ)
16:20Moscow (RJ)
16:20Casablanca (RJ)
16:30London (RJ)
16:45 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:15 Zagreb (Marka Airport) (RJ)
18:00Bangkok, Culcutta (RJ)
18:15Athens (RJ)
19:25Rome (RJ)
20:10 Frankfurt, Aqaba (add) (RJ)
23:15Lamaca (RJ)

Other Flights
06:45Beirut, London (BA)
07:45Beirut (ME)
13:30 Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:30Riyadh (SV)
14:30Algiers (AH)
20:25Cairo (MS)
21:15Tel Aviv (LY)
22:55Damascus, Paris (AF)
23:40Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
03:00Rome (AZ)
05:00Istanbul (TK)
05:40London (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple700/500
Banana500/500
Banana (mulchamar)420/420
Banana (imported)830/650
Cabbage130/80
Carrot280/140
Cauliflower350/200
Cucumber (large)180/100
Cucumber (small)300/200
Eggplant240/140
Garlic700/450
Grapes500/350
Guava600/400
Lemon340/240
Marrow (large)220/150
Marrow (small)380/250
Mulukhia180/100
Onion (green)320/240
Onion (dry)140/80
Okra1000/600
Pear650/450
Pea600/400
Pepper (hot)340/200
Pepper (sweet)450/250
Pomegranate420/250
Potato330/220
Spinach330/200
String Bean780/500
Tomato200/120

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
09:00Aqaba (RW)
19:30 Aqaba (from Tel Aviv) (RW)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN
Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every

Home News

Queen gives keynote speech at Harvard University

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday addressed Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, according to a Royal Court Statement.

Subsequent to her introduction by Faculty Dean Joseph Nye, the Queen gave a speech emphasizing that the progress achieved in recent years signaled "new hope for stability and regional cooperation," but that this optimism has been fractured by occupation and expansion of settlements, collective punishment, violence and inflexibility on crucial issues like water rights, refugees and the status of the city of Jerusalem.

The revived tensions in the Middle East are particularly troubling because people's expectation have been raised by the historic breakthroughs, she said, and cited five major challenges, foremost among which is "to complete the Arab-Israeli peace process without delay and within a well-defined time frame."

Time is a crucial element, the Queen stated, and further delays will only benefit those who oppose peace and that the quality of peace and attainment of its full promise depend entirely on the resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict in all its dimensions and among all concerned parties.

The remaining major challenges, she said, include fostering regional economic cooperation, integrating the Middle East

into the global system of liberalised trade and capital markets through reform policies and investment-friendly environments, reducing social and economic disparities within our societies and domestic political reform. She described participatory decision-making as an essential guarantor of peace and emphasised the importance of integrating culturally appropriate democratic values in national political structures that draw upon "the rich variety of participatory decision-making traditions in Arab Islamic cultures."

The Queen described Jordan as embarking on fundamental reforms in two spheres; democratisation and economic structural reform, the statement said, and she added that Jordan's legal, administrative and fiscal measures have earned it "the recognition of the European Union as the most advanced country in the region in implementing market reforms."

She also promoted the combination of participatory decision-making, gender equality and integrated comprehensive development as helping to create an environment which will foster peace and accelerate the transition from wasteful militarism to productive economic cooperation, the statement said.

Queen Noor concluded her talk by warning that an incomplete peace would aggravate political and cul-

tural differences and economic disparities and that "for the sake of both our ancestors and our children we must not fail."

The Society of Arab Students hosts an annual series of talks by influential figures to promote understanding of the current situation in the Middle East. The Society, which comprises Arab students from the Middle East as well as Arab-Americans, seeks to raise awareness at Harvard and in Boston (the city where the university is located) of cultural, social and political issues related to the Middle East and the Arab World. It sponsors cultural and political events and organises an Intercollegiate Arab Students Conference as well as lectures and workshops by prominent personalities including Dr. Hanan Ashrawi and Professor Noam Chomsky.

The Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East (ISEPME) was founded in 1983 to promote social and economic development in support of peace in the Middle East. It pursues this mission through policy research, education and training, field projects, technical assistance to governments, and programmes which support the regionalisation of commerce in the Middle East. In cooperation with the prestigious Harvard Business School, the Institute formed the Harvard Middle East Business Forum, which is an international advisory

group of prominent Middle East business executives and representatives from multi-national corporations. ISEPME's research initiatives include designing a multi-national model for efficient and just sharing of scarce water resources as well as devising a plan to resolve the Palestinian refugee problem.

The Institute of Politics, which was established in 1966 as a living memorial to the late President John F. Kennedy, has developed a wide-range programme for students including the ARCO Forum of Public Affairs which has boasted such notable speakers as President of the Palestinian National Authority Yasser Arafat, U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry, former President of Poland Lech Walesa, U.S. First Lady Hillary Clinton, the Dalai Lama, Ross Perot, human rights activist Harry Wu as well as Queen Noor, who had addressed the Forum almost 12 years ago, the statement said.

TRH Prince Hashim Al Hussein, Princess Iman Al Hussein, Prince Firas Raad, who is a fellow at Harvard University, Senator Leila Sharaf and Dr. Lina Toukan accompanied Queen Noor to the event, which came at the invitation of the Harvard Radcliffe Society of Arab Students, the Institute of Politics and the Institute for Social and Economic Policy in the Middle East.

Prime Minister encourages 'positive competition' in the private sector

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti Wednesday said his government is eager to protect consumer interests and is doing all it can to create a positive competition in the private sector.

He said that this will be accomplished in a manner such that it would eventually benefit the public.

In a visit to the Ministry of Supply, Mr. Kabariti said that the government will study the possibility of reducing customs fees on imported sugar to allow the private sector to enter a healthy competition and benefit consumers.

To date, the Ministry of Supply has imported sugar, rice and wheat along with other basic commodities to ensure their public sale at rates set by the ministry.

Minister of Supply Munir Sobar briefed the prime minister on the Kingdom's supply situation and the availability of basic supplies at stabilised prices.

He also explained the mechanism in which the ministry is distributing the cash compensation to Jordanians in response to the wheat price hike last August.

Mr. Sobar explained that wheat flour consumption has dropped by an average of 34 per cent in the past two months and that fodder consumption



Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, Minister of Supply Munir Sobar, and other members of the ministry discuss issues of privatisation (Petra photo)

declined by 12 per cent since the price increases.

At the same time, he said, revenues from wheat flour and fodder, at the new rates, rose to a monthly JD 22 million up from JD 16 million.

The Prime Minister responded that the main objective of changing the form of subsidy on bread and fodder was to put an end to black market trading in which some people had illegally trafficked in these commodities.

Also, he said, the government's goal was that the new system bring

about household budgeting and new living and consumption styles to encourage Jordanians' self-reliance.

Mr. Kabariti expressed satisfaction with the role played by the Ministry of Supply in price controls and in encouraging competition among private sector merchants.

He also passed directives to the ministry officials to start preparing for the increased food demand which accompanies the month of Ramadan, expected to commence around Janu-

ary 10, 1997.

He said the ministry ought to keep a supply of two thousand tonnes of refrigerated poultry meat in its warehouses to meet any unexpected shortage and expressed his hope that the ministry could obtain, insofar as possible, such supplies from the local market.

Mr. Sobar said that the Ministry of Supply was closely monitoring world market prices and promised that should a global drop in prices occur it would immediately be reflected in Jordan.

Amman Int'l Book Fair displays eclectic titles

By a Jordanian Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN (J.T.) — Fill in a scant weekend agenda with a trip to the Amman International Book Fair and soothe your boredom with a novel. Or a cookbook. Or even a treatise on Islam.

More than 200 international publishing houses are represented at the fair, which opened Monday. Most predominant at the exhibition is Islamic literature and references. But according to cashiers, books on computer technology, science and medical texts have been the biggest draw so far.

Indeed, nearly one quarter of the hall's upper floor is dedicated to user guides and manuals to nearly all known (and even some unheard of) computers and application programmes.

"A number of people are also coming for academic books," said a representative of the Jordan Book Centre. "Especially medical and technological literature or things to put in university libraries. But there is quite a variety for children as well."

"This is a very good opportunity for people to see a large variety and quantity from all the Arab World — especially from Egypt, Syria and Lebanon," said publisher Elias Farkouh of Azbena Publishing and Distribution. The exhibition includes a special quarter displaying the works of Egyptian writer and literary critic, Ihsan Abbas, whose works include "A History of Greater Syria," "A History of Petra," "The Anthology of Poetry" and an autobiography entitled "Shepherd's Wanderings."

Despite the number of foreign publishing houses, foreign titles are somewhat limited, and all in English. However, some daring titles are to be found. Among them, "Democracy without Democrats — A Renewal of Politics in the Muslim World," a collection of works by various Arabists, published by I.B. Tauris Publishing, and "Islam — the People and the State," a critical look at Islamic influence on Middle East politics by Sami Zubaida. Selections in English aren't limited to politics. Every-

thing from books on Chinese cuisine to the Norton Anthology of World Masterpieces are available this year.

This is the sixth book fair to be hosted in Jordan, and participants expect to have a good draw.

"This year will definitely be much better than last — turnout and sales always depends on the quality of available books and this year there is fairly high quality," said a representative of the Jordan Book Centre.

Also this year, several stands are offering discounts of up to twenty per cent following a request by the Jordan Publishers Union to forgo a margin of profit to encourage book purchase.

The book fair is being hosted at the International Exhibition Centre under the patronage of HRH Crown Prince Hassan, and will run until Oct. 14.

TCC assures employees of continued benefits

By Mamdouh Hawamdeh

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh Wednesday assured employees of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) that none would be laid off once the TCC completes its transformation into the Jordanian Telecommunications Company (JTC).

This change is expected to be implemented fully by the beginning of 1997.

In a statement to Al Ra'i daily newspaper and the Jordan Times, Mr. Saraireh said his ministry Wednesday started the process of drawing up a list of the TCC's 4,427 employees prior to sending it to the new company, officially registered Tuesday as worth JD 250 million.

"None of the TCC employees, whether employed on a monthly or a daily basis, will be adversely affected by the transformation and they will all commence work with the company as of the beginning of 1997," the minister said.

"We insist on protecting all TCC employees' rights as well as their pensions from the Social Security Corporation," added the minister.

Mr. Saraireh said that "the JTC is expected to gradually augment employee income, raising it to equal that given to private sector employees and it will also provide health care services to workers and their families in order to provide work incentives."

According to Mr. Saraireh, the JTC is expected to create an additional 500 jobs, including those for technicians and engineers, in the first two years of operations.

In his announcement Tuesday, the minister said that the Council of Ministers will appoint a chairman and board members for the new company in the next two days.

The creation of the company came in the wake of a new law on telecommunications which provides for the transformation of the TCC into a shareholding company which is fully government-owned, according to the minister.

Men apprehended; allegedly responsible for 74 vehicle thefts

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times

ZARQA — In a one week period Zarqa police arrested eight men, in separate roundups, suspected of stealing 74 vehicles and various telephone cables, according to Assistant Director of the Zarqa Police Department (ZPD) Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Seidat, Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Seidat said the latest arrest took place on Oct. 6, when police apprehended three juveniles, aged 15 and 17, suspected of burglarising 54 vehicles after school hours.

According to the police official, the youths were arrested at 4:30 a.m., when caught breaking into a car in the Nuzha neighbourhood of Zarqa.

In a press conference held at the ZPD, he maintained that the three suspects, all high school students, began to target vehicles two months ago.

Describing their general modus operandi, the official said, "the juveniles

would break into a car, steal its stereo and amplifiers along with anything light which they could remove."

Additionally, Lt. Col. Seidat stated that police arrested three men, also suspected of stealing vans loaded with goods.

"The men would steal the van, take it to a deserted area, remove the load and vehicle parts, then flee the scene with a pick-up truck they brought for that purpose," he explained.

Lt. Col. Seidat explained that police set a trap for the three men who attempted to steal a designated van in the Rahmeh neighbourhood of Zarqa.

A police chase ensued which resulted in their arrest, he said.

The majority of items reported stolen have been retrieved, according to a police official, who called on those who had, indeed, been burglarised to identify their stolen goods at the Zarqa Police Department.

All six suspects confessed to stealing and burglarising vehicles and demonstrated

exactly how they managed to carry out these crimes, he added.

Lt. Col. Seidat also reported that last week authorities apprehended two men who stole 80 metres of telephone cables belonging to the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) in the Aum Sleikh and Ghreish areas in Zarqa.

"We received a tip from individuals who saw the two men pulling the cables down, and upon a search of one of the suspect's homes, we retrieved 60 kilos of copper wires," Lt. Col. Seidat said.

He said that the cable pilfering paralysed telephone services in certain areas for a week.

The two suspects, who were only identified by their ages, 21 and 24, apparently had previous criminal records.

Lt. Col. Seidat stressed that many of these cases were solved with citizen help, "who provided key information which led to the arrest of these individuals."

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM

* Spanish film entitled "La Madre Muerta" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 4:30 p.m.

FOOD FAIR

* The 13th Annual Food Fair at the International Community School on Friday Oct. 11 at 11:00 a.m. (Tel. 841070) — Activities include national costume parade, music by the Jordanian Army Band, food from different parts of the world including Swedish specialties, Jordanian delicacies, Irish coffee, and Italian pasta. Pony rides and other activities will be available.

PLAYS

* Play "Letters of Peace" at Nabil Mashini Theatre, Jabal Weibdeh, on Thursday at 5:00 p.m.

* Children's play "Folklore Tales" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 6:00 p.m.

POETRY RECITAL

* An hour of poetry by poet and playwright Helen MacElroy at Amman Bookshop, Jabal Amman on Thursday at 6:30 p.m.

CONCERT

* Performance by Al Hamunah Band at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday at 8:00 p.m.

BOOK REVIEW

* Review of a book entitled "Roads to Exile, Ascending to Naught" at Baladna Art Gallery, Gardens Street, on Thursday at 6:00 p.m. (Tel. 687598).

EXHIBITIONS

* "The Fifth One-Dimension Exhibition" by several artists at Ab'ad Art Gallery, Mecca Street (Tel. 862105), until Oct. 10.

* Basketry exhibition (with a variety of wrought iron furniture mixed with basketry) at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, Shmeisani (Tel. 699141/2), until Oct. 10.

EXHIBITION / SALE

* Exhibition and sale of old postcards, photographs and lithography on Jerusalem and the Holy Land by David Roberts at Um Al Kundun, airport road near the Arabian Horse Club, on Friday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Tel. 644013).

Public to collect rainwater

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Water and Irrigation will soon begin an awareness campaign encouraging the public to collect rainwater from their roofs during winter.

This programme is slated to economise water consumption.

Meanwhile, an annual ministry report, released Wednesday, said that the Kingdom's water consumption for domestic and industrial purposes in 1995 was estimated at 246.1 million cubic metres (mcm), an increase of around 12 per cent over the 1994 figure.

The report stated that the Amman governorate consumed the majority of this water, roughly 43 per cent of the total, followed by the Irbid governorate which utilised 16 per cent of the total water consumed.

Eclipse to dazzle Amman Saturday

By Amy Henderson

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — If shadows seem to grow long an hour early Saturday, don't despair. Another hour of "daylight savings" hasn't been tacked onto our already shortened days. It's just a solar eclipse.

According to the Department of Meteorology, "astronomical calculations indicate a partial solar eclipse during the afternoon of Oct. 12 at 16:24 local time... the position of the sun at the beginning of the eclipse shall be, with respect to our capital Amman, 255 degrees 48' at an elevation of 7 degrees 56' from the horizon."

To the rest of us, that means, simply, the moon, seemingly, is going to partially block

the light of the sun, for a short time. Technically speaking, astronomers say the moon "enters the conjunction," travelling between the earth and sun. The darkness evidenced here is the moon casting its shadow.

According to Hana Sabat, the secretary of the Jordan Astronomy Society, the earth will be in what is known as "penumbra," the peculiar mix of shadow and light that occurs during a partial eclipse. It's contrary term is "umbra," or the almost total darkness that we see during a total eclipse. (For this phenomenon, we'll have to wait another ten years: a full solar eclipse is scheduled for March 3, 1996.)

This will be the fourth celestial event of the year. In April, the Heavens treated us to another minor eclipse as well as a

lunar eclipse. And in late September, there was a second eclipse of the moon in the early morning before sunrise.

Mr. Sabat advised that this eclipse will be viewed best from a high vantage point.

"This is because the maximum [view] of the eclipse will be at 5:11 p.m. — but sunset is at 5:05," he said. "If you are at a higher altitude, you will be able to see more."

This celestial affair commences at 4:24 p.m. for viewers in Amman, but Jordanians won't be alone in observing it. According to the Department of Meteorology, other countries that will be able to observe the eclipse are Syria, Turkey, Egypt, other North African countries and Canada.

Mr. Sabat added that you won't need any extra

accessories to watch this eclipse — not even funky paper sunglasses.

"This time, since it's a partial eclipse, your eye will adjust slowly," he explained. "When there is a full eclipse, your pupil dilates when it becomes dark to let in the maximum amount of light, and when the moon moves away from the sun, your eye can be damaged by the light."

In any case, caution is recommended and it is never advisable to watch the sun for a prolonged period.

So if you're not otherwise occupied Saturday afternoon, we recommend you watch it. Solar eclipses are rarely disappointing... and they only happen "once in a blue moon."

Japan heading for confrontation with claims to islands — China

BEIJING (R) — China said Wednesday Japan was heading for confrontation with an election platform reiterating Tokyo's claim to disputed islands in the East China Sea but said it was not too late for Japan to stop its reckless gamble.

"Japan is turning a deaf ear to warnings and protests from China... and has embarked on the road to confrontation," the official China Daily said, commenting on the election platform of Japan's biggest political party, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"It is still not too late for Japan to stop this reckless gamble," the newspaper said in a commentary. "It is high time for Japan to take measures to stop the game for the sake of the world and its own future."

The LDP announced last week an election platform that reiterates Tokyo's claim to the East China Sea islands, which Tokyo calls the Senkaku and which Beijing and Taipei call the Diaoyus.

"Japan has not learnt the lesson of its militarist expansion and... it is going into another dangerous game," the newspaper said.

On Monday, about 300 Taiwanese and Hong Kong protesters aboard a 50-boat flotilla pierced a Japanese maritime cordon around the islands and briefly raised the flags of Beijing and Taipei on the rocky outcrops in a challenge to Tokyo's claim of sovereignty.

Japan has sought to calm passions in the dispute and asked China and Taiwan to prevent a recurrence of Monday's landings. Tokyo has said it would not recognise a lighthouse built on one of the islands by Japanese rightwingers this year.

Japanese rightwingers sailed to the islands in July and repaired the lighthouse, rekindling the dispute.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang Tuesday accused Japan of taking an irresponsible approach by encouraging landings on the islands by the rightwing groups.

Mr. Shen warned that the will of the Chinese people "cannot be bullied" and that sovereignty ranked above everything else.

Meanwhile, protesters forced their way into the Japanese consulate in Hong

Kong Wednesday, where they briefly demonstrated against Japanese control over the Diaoyu-Senkaku Islands.

About 20 activists from the Action Committee for the Protection of Diaoyu Islands, entered the building and covered the consulate emblem with a banner before sitting on the floor and chanting slogans.

The banner read: "We protest against the Japanese government for invading the Diaoyu Islands... our strength cannot be denied."

The protesters left the consulate after staying for some 30 minutes, without being forced out by the police. There was no violence.

Leung Kwok-Hung, 40, spokesman for group, said afterward: "We used slight force in order to get our way into the consulate."

Asked if more protests were on their way, Mr. Leung said: "It is very hard to predict."

"If the Japanese government ignores the protests that are happening all around the world and insists on giving sympathy to militarism, the protests will get bigger and bigger."

The demonstration came less than a day after Governor Chris Patten urged the Hong Kong public to show restraint towards Japanese residents, in spite of the escalating dispute.

Japanese Consul-General Hideaki Ueda called on the Hong Kong government to discourage Hong Kong residents from repeating the Monday protest.

Mr. Ueda, echoing a statement from Tokyo, said the landing protest was "regrettable."

However, the Hong Kong government said it would not prevent Hong Kong people from taking their protests to the islands.

A spokesman for territory's security branch said: "We have made it clear that Hong Kong people are free to express their views, and that the Hong Kong government cannot prevent Hong Kong people leaving Hong Kong."

Security at the consulate had already been stepped up in the face of mounting anti-Japanese sentiment in Hong Kong after Japanese ultranationalists erected a lighthouse on one of the islands in mid-July.



Ousted Indonesian Democratic Party leader Megawati Sukarnoputri speaks to reporters after the trial of her 64 supporters in central Jakarta court Wednesday in connection with riots in July. Ms. Megawati made a rare public appearance to attend the trial (Reuters photo)

Megawati attends supporters' trial

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia's ousted minority party leader Megawati Sukarnoputri made a rare public appearance Wednesday, attending the start of trials of her supporters detained in the aftermath of the July riots in Jakarta.

The government opened its case against the first batch of 64 defendants in five separate hearings in the Central Jakarta State Court. Cases against another 60 people are expected to go to trial next week.

The defendants, who are mostly Indonesian Democratic Party (PDI) members and Ms. Megawati sympathisers, are part of a group of 124 people detained in or around the party's national headquarters in Jakarta on July 27 this year.

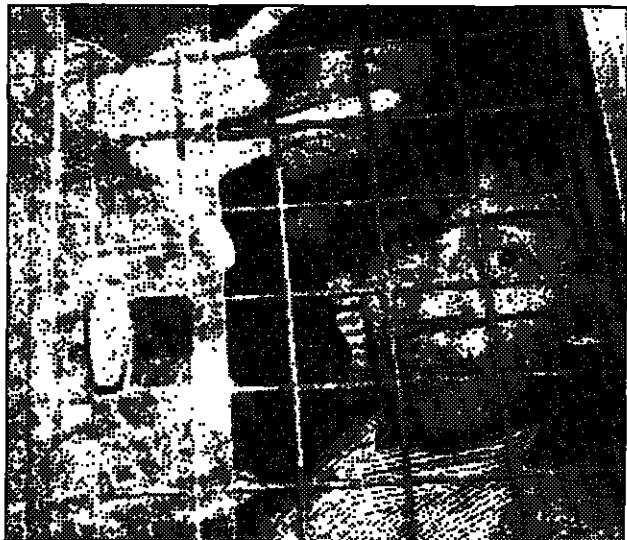
They are accused of using violence against people and property as well as disobeying police orders to disperse after the headquarters was taken over by police and a group of supporters from a government-backed rival party faction.

Ms. Megawati, who arrived at the court in a convoy of cars with lawyers and other senior party members, was escorted by riot police to the courtroom. Some 200 police and troops were on guard.

She sat silently through the proceedings, often using a hand-fan to cool herself in the hot and crowded chamber.

"I promised them (the accused) that I would be present to show that they are not guilty," she later told reporters.

State Prosecutor Suhaimi said in a court where 12 people were being tried, "the accused... and 112 others on July 27 between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. committed



Supporters of ousted Indonesia Democratic Party (PDI) leader Megawati Sukarnoputri flash the party symbol while being carried by a police vehicle to enter the Central Jakarta State Court for their trial Wednesday (Reuters photo)

violent acts against people and property with the consequence of injuring people."

"Supporters of PDI leader Surjadi had come to take over the headquarters. The accused... threw stones at those outside the headquarters, injuring two of the group and two policemen," he said.

"The accused and 112 others did not disperse soon after being ordered to by police," he said.

The government's backing of Ms. Megawati's expulsion from the PDI leadership and her replacement by Mr. Surjadi sparked some of the most intense political dissent in Indonesia in recent decades.

Political analysts have said the move was aimed at preventing Ms. Megawati, the daughter of late founding President Sukarno, from cutting into the ruling Golkar Party's vote in general elections in 1997.

Riots erupted after police took over the PDI headquarters and at least five people died and scores of buildings and vehicles were set ablaze. It was the worst violence in Jakarta in more than 20 years.

Chief defence lawyer R. O. Tambunan said in his reply to the charges that all Indonesians were equal under the law but authorities had not launched proceedings against any member of the rival faction.

"None of the supporters of Surjadi, who attacked the office and caused such brutal damage, faces any charges and it is as if the law did not apply to them," Mr. Tambunan said.

Head Judge Alboin Sianipar adjourned the hearing until Oct. 16 when the prosecution is expected to reply to the defence claims, including accusations that the charges against the defendants were technically flawed.

N. Zealand opposition surges days before vote

WELLINGTON (R) — In an 11th hour surge, New Zealand's main opposition Labour Party has dramatically narrowed the gap on the ruling conservative National government, according to a poll published Wednesday.

Three days from a general election Saturday, centre-left Labour polled 26 per cent, up five points, while Prime Minister Jim Bolger's National Party plunged seven points to 30 per cent.

The TV3 poll showed a strong shift to the left with Labour's likely ally, the five party, left-wing Alliance grouping, up three points at 17 per cent.

The probable third party in the group, the economic nationalist New Zealand First, fell three points to 13 per cent.

The result of the election hinges on which way New Zealand First and its charismatic Maori leader Winston Peters jumps.

He has said he favours Labour's social policies but has concerns about its economic policies.

If the poll was borne out on election night, National would get 39 seats, Labour 33, the Alliance 22, New Zealand First 17 and Act eight and United one.

That would give a centre-left grouping including New Zealand First 72 seats in the 120 seat parliament.

The poll confirmed a trend that has accelerated since Labour leader Helen Clark decisively won two televised leaders' debates.

Mr. Bolger performed badly in both debates according to The Worm — a computerised line which measured the reaction of an audience of undecided voters.

Boosted by her performance on the hustings, Ms. Clark's rating as preferred prime minister has tripled in 10 days to 16 per cent, only two points behind Mr. Bolger.

Mr. Bolger, who after the 1993 election bitterly denounced polls that had predicted a healthy lead for National which never eventuated, remained sceptical about polls and Worms.

"New Zealanders should put Worms to the side and ask the question: Do they want to build on what they have achieved or do they want to go back?" he said.

The only good news for the government was the improvement in the rating of potential ally, the free market Act New Zealand party, up 0.3 points to 6.4 per cent.



U.S. Coast Guard crew (right) gets ready to board the Xing Da, a disabled ship carrying 86 Chinese migrants and a crew of 23 suspected smugglers, about 150 miles off Bermuda on Oct. 3. The ship towed by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter arrived today in Bermuda, but the government of the British colony insists that the 109 people on board will not be allowed to land on the island (Reuters photo)

Chinese migrant ship arrives in Bermuda

HAMILTON, Bermuda (R) — A disabled ship carrying Chinese migrants and a crew of 23 suspected smugglers arrived in Bermuda Tuesday, but no decision had been made on their ultimate destination, local media reported.

The cargo vessel Xing Da was towed to Bermuda by a U.S. Coast Guard cutter about midday, but the government of the British colony continued to insist that the 109 people aboard would not be allowed to land on the island.

The vessel was found adrift Saturday in the Atlantic Ocean about 240 kilometres off Bermuda.

The Washington Post reported in Wednesday editions that the seizure of the freighter and indictments of three Chinese men in Boston marked the end of a two-year investigation and broke up a major New York-based criminal alien-smuggling ring that had operated for several years.

The newspaper quoted U.S. officials and court papers as saying that the three men indicted, all of New York City, had agreed

to pay the owner of a fishing boat at least \$500,000 to smuggle illegal aliens from the Xing Da.

The owner was actually an undercover agent of the immigration and naturalisation service, working with Coast Guard agents to dismantle the smuggling operation.

The Post quoted the officials as saying the investigation was continuing and further arrests were expected.

Bermuda insisted that the 86 migrants and 23 crew aboard the ship be held in U.S. custody and that the United States send aircraft to the island to transport them immediately out of British territory, Bermuda radio and television reported.

A State Department spokeswoman said U.S. agencies were conducting an investigation to "ascertain the facts about the ship and the people aboard."

She said the Coast Guard was continuing to supply water to the ship's passengers and crew — 103 men and six women — many of

whom were somewhat dehydrated when the U.S. officials first boarded the ship on Oct. 3.

Bermuda Governor Lord Waddington ordered the mobilisation of 100 soldiers in the part-time Bermuda Regiment to assist local police with security, according to media reports.

The U.S. government considered the passengers as potential illegal migrants to the United States and the crew as smugglers, U.S. Consul Bob Farmer has said.

The passengers and crew had been aboard since June and some were dehydrated when the vessel was found adrift on the weekend. Water was flown to the ship but food supplies were adequate, authorities said.

Indicted in the case were Hui Lin, 34, Yiu Ming Kwan, 45, and Nai Fook Li, 30, the Post reported. If convicted of alien-smuggling, the men face prison terms of up to 10 years per alien under the tough new immigration law, as well as jail terms of up to five years for conspiracy and fines of up to \$500,000.

Amid renewed attacks on Clinton, Dole calls the president a clown

LYNDHURST, New Jersey (AFP) — Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole called President Bill Clinton a "Bozo" Tuesday, a label that the Clinton camp suggested was a sign of desperation.

In response to a supporter's request that Sen. Dole "get Bozo out of the White House," the Republican — who has gone to great lengths to overcome the public's perception that he is harsh — replied: "Bozo's on his way out."

"Bozo" is the name of a famous U.S. television clown.

Sen. Dole's spokesman Nelson Warfield sought to play down the off-the-cuff response as "a light-hearted comment."

But Clinton spokesman Michael McCurry pounced on the comment, saying, "It's not hard to imagine that Senator Dole might be feeling a little desperate at this point."

Hoping to gain strength following his respectable performance at Sunday's presidential debate, Sen. Dole Tuesday also blasted Mr. Clinton's record on crime, drugs and taxes during a bus tour through this key electoral state.

In addition to claiming he won the debate, Sen. Dole touted his favourite refrain

on Mr. Clinton's record on crime and drugs: "There has been absolutely no leadership at all."

"President Clinton has appointed liberal judges who send criminals back on the streets," Sen. Dole charged.

He also demanded that the White House turn over a 1995 memo from the FBI director which allegedly criticises Mr. Clinton's anti-drug policy. The president has claimed executive privilege in refusing to turn over the document.

"I'm not surprised the campaign has adopted harsher, more personally negative tactics," said Clinton Deputy Campaign Manager Ann Lewis, adding "I am surprised that (Dole) is more personally associated with them."

"But this is not the first time (Clinton and Vice President Al Gore) have been called Bozo," she added, referring to how, towards the end of the 1992 campaign, then-President George Bush made a similar comment.

"My dog Millie knows more about foreign affairs than those two Bozos," Mr. Bush said in comments that many said only alienated voters.

At each stop recently, Sen. Dole has lashed out at the

Clinton record — and particularly Mr. Clinton's ethics. "My word is good, his word is no good. I'll keep my promise to the American people," Sen. Dole said.

In addition to the "trust" issue, Sen. Dole is hyping his economic plan and its centerpiece: A 15-per cent tax cut combined with a promise to balance the budget.

But recent polls show many voters either don't believe the plan is feasible, or fear that cuts necessary to balancing the budget will target programmes that help the poor and the elderly.

And the Dole camp is aware that they lose voters — especially women, who according to polls are already more likely to vote for Clinton — whenever they come across as "negative."

This means the Republican must walk a tightrope between being too "soft" on Mr. Clinton's first term and too harsh. Suggesting that Mr. Clinton is a clown does little to make that balancing act easy for Sen. Dole.

New Delhi powerless to stop monkey menace

NEW DELHI (AFP) — New Delhi's authorities have been flooded with complaints of attacks by monkeys, a newspaper reported Wednesday, but officials say they cannot tackle the problem because of the animal's status in Hindu religion. Groups of monkeys have reportedly attacked and bitten scores of men and women in the city's southern and central areas, the Times of India daily said. "On an average we receive six or seven frantic calls a day to remove the monkeys," an official of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) was quoted as saying. The MCD does not allow monkeys to be killed as they are considered an incarnation of the Hindu monkey-god Hanuman. Even trapping them is difficult. "No Hindu volunteers for the job although we pay 100 rupees (\$3) for each monkey," the official said. The MCD's sole monkey-trapper, meanwhile, wants to quit and a recent advertisement for monkey-trapping evoked no response. The Times said monkeys were a common sight in many areas. They could be seen on electric posts and terraces and in parks, moving in large groups. Many residents reportedly use batons to protect themselves. "They tear clothes hung on for drying, use drain-pipes to enter our kitchens and sometimes even help themselves to the food in the refrigerators," an exasperated resident said.

Australia declares war on pesky rabbits

SYDNEY (R) — Australia has declared biological war on an estimated 200 million rabbits. The rabbit population received its first exposure to the deadly calicivirus disease near the outback town of Wagga Wagga, where New South Wales Agriculture Minister Richard Amery released 20 infected rabbits into the wild. Farmers blame the creatures — imported by the British hunting buff in the 19th century — with causing extensive damage to crops and driving indigenous animals and plants to the verge of extinction. "It's probably the best news the environment has had in 20 years," said Mick Keogh, a farmers' representative. Government officials say the virus will eventually be released at 280 sites in all of Australia's states and territories, although some wild rabbits have already been accidentally infected. Calicivirus kills most rabbits in 12 to 24 hours by causing massive internal bleeding. The virus was first detected in Europe in 1984, traced to a train shipment of Angora rabbits from China. The virus swept through Europe's rabbit population, prompting scientists to harness it for pest control purposes.

New bat, deadly frog discovered in Colombia

BOGOTA (R) — Scientists in northwest Colombia have discovered a new species of bat as well as a type of frog that packs enough poison to kill hundreds of people, a conservation group said Tuesday. The deadly frog, *Phyllomedusa Terribilis*, exists in other parts of the world but has never been found in Colombia. A few drops of its poison can kill up to 1,500 people, spokesmen for the regional environmental group Comare said in a telephone interview from Rionegro, a suburb of the northwest city of Medellin. The bat, *Saccopteryx attenuata*, is not found anywhere else in the world. Comare said in a new release. Comare sponsored a six-month field study in the east of Antioquia province by a team of independent scientists who also discovered three other new species of frogs and a lizard.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation

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Larger media world

IN THE remarks which he made during his visit to the Jordan Times Tuesday, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, addressed an extremely significant issue when he pointed to the distance that the press still needs to cover before it can rise to its responsibilities in a society moving towards democracy and true development, or productivity as he preferred to call it. The Crown Prince said the press needs to go beyond the routine reporting of hard news to in-depth analysis and thematic approaches to the problems with which societies like ours are grappling. The press, said the Prince, needs to initiate debates about major concerns and equip itself with the means of explaining Jordan to the world rather than have others explain to us our policies and those of neighbouring countries.

These are points which are extremely important and as such cannot be ignored. But what is required and needed are achievements whose realisation does not entirely depend on the journalists themselves and their performance.

There are other factors that strongly influence the performance of the press. Most prominent among them are the input and contributions of our intellectuals, tolerance of pluralistic and independent press by our politicians and society at large and indeed conducive and productive work environment.

It is no secret that news organisations in Jordan remain some distance away from maturity and most journalistic practice needs upgrading in professionalism and quality. Much is desired in terms of training and retraining, as in fact the Crown Prince himself pointed out. And, perhaps above all, every effort should be directed at establishing non-government media institutions which concern themselves with studying and analysing freedoms of expression and opinion, within the laws and the culture of the land, and the rights and responsibilities of the news media. Achieving balance is crucial for any country's stability and progress, but where it cannot be perfected, attention should be turned to ensuring fairness in the information field, and this is the role of such institutions can be played best.

To his credit, the Crown Prince has always called on the press to resort to data banks for information before attempts to write news and views are made. But access to information that the government and semi-government departments have is not always easy. This access is made all the tighter by laws which were tailored to rein in the media in the first place. The in-depth reporting and analysis which the Regent has in mind would require that access to this type of information is facilitated by law and practice. This cannot happen overnight, as we all know. But the trail to lasting and productive democracy is just being blazed, and we all have to learn to find our way through the maze of the new age that we live in.

Then there is the importance of talking, or properly using the press which is still little recognised by Jordanians generally. Time will take care of this shortcoming, especially as civil society develops and takes root in our midst. Prince Hassan's emphasis on the need to build a thorough and comprehensive framework in which the media can operate is well taken, although many obstacles still stand in the face of its implementation. There is no reason, however, to give up. There is a process of development and that process will continue to find support among members of the profession as well as other officials and citizens who want a more informative, analytical and objective press. That process might not be progressing fast enough. But it is moving.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

WHENEVER THE Israelis wish to obstruct the negotiations with the Palestinians over the implementation of the Oslo accords, they bring up the subject of security, said a writer for Al Ra'i Wednesday. Of course by security they mean that of Israel and not of the Palestinians, as if the Palestinians possessed tanks and war planes and nuclear weapons, said Salah Jarrar. If anybody is in need of security, it is the Palestinians whose lands are usurped, their livelihood cut off and their existence in jeopardy, said the writer. It is the right of the Palestinians to demand guarantees for their security and for protection from criminal actions committed by the Israeli settlers and the Israeli troops; and it is the Palestinians who should express their constant fear of the presence of the Israeli forces who occupy their homeland, he continued. The writer said that the Israelis continue to bring up the subject of security as a means to exercise blackmail on the Palestinian negotiators and in order to deprive the Palestinian people of any means to defend themselves. The writer stressed that the only means for guaranteeing security for the Israelis and the Palestinians lies with accelerating the termination of Israel's occupation of Arab territories.

The View from Academia

From the muse to the marketplace — the way of the publishing process

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

THE VISIT to Amman this week by a four-person American team (comprising a poet and novelist, a literary agent, a publisher and a bookseller, and sponsored by the United States Information Agency — USIA — under a programme called "Corridors of Culture") and the series of encounters the members of the team have had (and are having) with Jordanian writers, scholars, journalists and publishers have stimulated a debate about a number of issues related to the business of writing and publishing: the act of writing itself, the process of publication, intellectual property rights, affordability of books, etc.

For Jordanian participants in the encounters, two issues (among others) have been particularly important to raise.

The first is the process of publication itself. If you want to publish and market a book in the U.S., you have to go through a long process — at times "bitter" and "dirty," as poet and novelist Colleen J. McElroy asserted in a meeting with professors and students at the English Department, University of Jordan — ("process" is a key word here).

The first thing you do is to carefully write the text (carefully because there is a great deal of competition and because several people will read the manuscript meticulously before they decide to publish it). The second step is to find a literary agent who will undertake the search for a publisher who would be willing to publish the manuscript and agree to terms acceptable to the author. But this is not an automatic act, for the agent has to first assess the value of the book and its marketability. In other words, the agent may easily turn the manuscript back to the author with a politely-worded rejection letter. One has to "believe" in the value of the manuscript and its market potential, said literary agent Lawrence Jordan, before one decides to seek a publisher for it. Once the agent is convinced of the value of the manuscript, he/she looks for a publisher and negotiates a contract on behalf of the author. The third step is for the publisher (through a team of editors and specialists) to look into the act of publishing the manuscript. If it is good enough and the publisher believes it sells, the book is published. After publication, booksellers (not the publishing house) undertake the process of marketing the book.

What happens in our part of the world? The process (if you can call it that) is way simpler. You sit down and write a book (and for many people, this is an easy task), you take your book to a publisher directly (he may or may not ask you for an amount of money to cover the costs of the typesetting, paper and ink), you may or may not sign a contract, the book is or is not published (in most cases it is,

especially if you are willing to pay the cost) and the publisher handles the selling in the way he sees fit. This is true for the vast majority of cases. Some publishing houses are trying to go about things in a more professional way, but most still do not.

The second point has to do with the act of writing the text itself. Most aspiring writers in the U.S. go through the so-called MFA programmes (Master of Fine Arts). These programmes, which run normally for two years, enable students with proven interest and potential for writing fiction or poetry to meet weekly with a professor (of poetry or fiction, depending on their interest) and with peers to discuss what they have produced for the week. After each individual student composes a text on the basis of both inspiration from the muse and hard thinking, the text is submitted to the said professor and peers who read it carefully and then sit down around a table and discuss it. At the end of the session, the student is asked to rewrite the text on the basis of the comments. By the end of the two years, the student is supposed to produce a publishable collection of poetry, short stories or a novel.

We have nothing like this in our part of the world. Our colleges and universities do not offer any formal training for aspiring writers. The writing of all our creative literature is done independently by the individual author in the comfort of his/her own kitchen, dining-room, farm, etc. In the vast majority of cases, no one sees it but the muse, the author and the publisher (if the latter cares to look).

At times, students in the various specialties show their works to their teachers or professors, but this is done in a casual manner. I also know of a couple of groups in Jordan who have also been meeting for some time informally and discussing each other's works. Most people, however, sit down when inspired and write a poem or a story. Some think hard and revise thoroughly, but most do not. Some people in fact brag that they can write a poem in thirty minutes. They sit in front of you and write it down. On such basis, you can write an anthology of 50 poems in 24 hours. The anthology is then handed to the publisher and published.

The matter that worries many in our part of the world, of course, is the quality of our creative texts (especially the quality of fiction). How can the quality be at the level we want if the publishing process is so haphazard, loose and at times so easy? Bring me JD 400, I publish you any book you want about anything you want. But how can the quality be at the level we want, if we write our poems, short

stories and novels so hastily?

The outcome speaks for itself. Browsing through our libraries and bookstores, what does one find? A lot of poor quality literature. There are good books to be sure, for some of our authors (poets, novelists, etc.) take themselves and the act of writing and publishing seriously (and so do some of our publishers). Much of what we have, however, is unacceptable: it can either benefit from serious revision or should be destroyed entirely.

At times I feel sorry for our children, our young people, and our readers, in general, when I look at the quality of some of the books that are sold and read. But more than sorry, I feel alarmed at the negative impact some books leave (or may leave) on our children, young people, and unsuspecting readers. Not only are such books shallow and superficial (and they thus turn many readers shallow and superficial) they can also be subversive and harmful. Look at the way many of our young people think. Come and debate matters with many of our students (not to mention the teachers and other adults), you will be amazed at how simplistic they are in their thinking and argumentation. The phenomenon is attributed to many factors, but silly, superficial books are also a factor.

The idea to be emphasised here (and to be debated thoroughly, while the said team is still visiting the country and the region, and after) is the impact of the process of publishing and the act of writing on the quality of the works themselves. I think it would be safe to say that the more process there is the better the quality. When I know that an agent has to look into my text, then a publisher, then the publisher's editors and experts. I will most probably take my writing seriously and produce something profound and competitive. When, as in our case, I know that no one looks at it but the muse and myself, chances are (unless I am extremely committed to what I write), I will cook up anything.

The American system has its own vices, I am sure. Some excellent works never see the light of day (i.e. get published) because of the difficulty of the process. Some works are published for market (not intellectual) considerations. Still, a system is better than no system.

We need, it seems to me, two things (among others) to improve the quality of our publications: develop a more demanding system and introduce the MFA programmes in our colleges and universities.

'Peace between Israel and Arabs is a U.S. priority'

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — The date is Nov. 10, 1996. Bill Clinton has just been reelected president in a landslide. His first foreign visitor is Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Israel. Here's what the president says to him:

"Bibi, welcome back. The first time you came in July your strategy was to say that you were going to come up with a new strategy of implementing the peace accords and that we should give you time. The second time you came in September, you had no strategy, but you played for time by exploiting the Iraq crisis and whispering to us that the Iraqis had nuclear weapons. The third time you came in October was so that we could deal with the violence that resulted from you having no strategy. At that time, your supporters here got Dole to crudely warn me against squeezing you, and I couldn't for fear of losing Jewish votes. Nice move. But now you're here for a fourth time, after yet another blow-up. But now I'm a free man, and so this time, Bibi, I'm going to give it to you straight from the shoulder.

"Bibi, you're an intelligent, serious person, with aspirations to be a great leader. Because of your communication skills and credentials as a hardliner, you have the potential to build a consensus within Israel on peace that no other Israeli leader at this time can do. But so far all you have done is polarise Israeli society anew and lead it into a dead end. I know, Bibi, that the U.S. cannot impose peace. But there is one thing I can do, and that is impose a sense of reality on all the parties, including you.

"You may no longer have a mandate or strategy, but I have both. And now it's my move, I want Israel and the Palestinians to complete implementation, by a fixed date, of all the Oslo accords already signed for Hebron and for the further redeployments in the West Bank — with the understanding that there will be no unilateral changes by either side on issues to be

negotiated in the final talks. We still insist that Palestinian police, whatever the provocation, have absolutely no right to use violence to press their cause. But let me be clear: Since there have been no reasonable ideas coming from you on how to implement all that has been agreed, I will be putting out my own ideas to keep Oslo moving and to get us to the final-status negotiations. Remember, my signature is also on the Oslo accords.

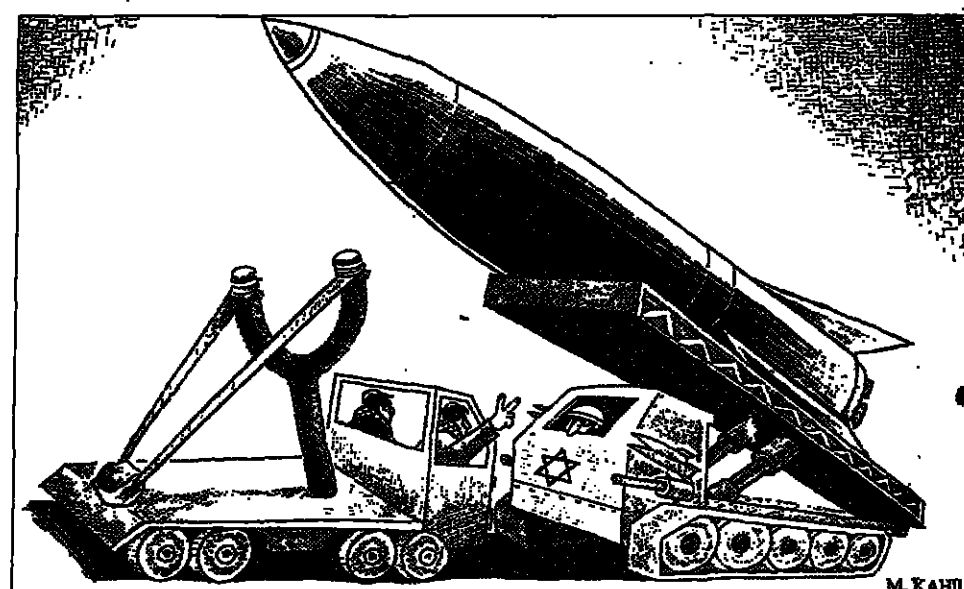
"In the meantime, some free advice. First, surprise everyone: Close the tunnel door. Announce that while Israel is fully within its rights as the sovereign power in Jerusalem to open the new tunnel door, this issue has become so inflamed, and become such a distraction from your real objective of building a secure peace, that you have decided to review the tunnel-door issue and will close it meanwhile. Yes, some of your headline colleagues will criticise you, and the press will say you flip-flopped. But the majority will see it as a real act of statesmanship. It will deprive your critics of the argument that you're out to scuttle peace and it will force everyone to give you a second look.

"Second, Bibi, you are a very forceful debater. But I don't think you realise how you sound to Arab ears. There is a real tone of condescension and disdain that creeps into your voice. It started with your address before the U.S. Congress, when you lectured the Arabs about not being democracies; it came out in your disparaging remarks about Egypt, and it's always there when you talk about the Palestinians. Listen to your ministers David Levy or Dan Meridor. They make the same arguments as you, but without your morally superior style, which is really going to get in the way of your substantive diplomacy.

"Finally, Bibi, please understand one thing. If this Israeli-Palestinian peace process unravels, the entire structure of Arab-Israeli peace since Camp David will be eroded.

Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar, let alone Syria, will never be able to proceed along a road of real normalisation with Israel if they do not have the cover of a real Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement. You were elected on a mandate for 'secure peace.' You are squandering that mandate, and in doing so you are calling into question what we always believed was the shared priority of America and Israel — to bring about peaceful relations between Israel and all her Arab neighbours. That is still our priority. Is it yours?"

New York Times



LETTERS

Making history

To the Editor:

HAVING LIVED in the U.S. for fifteen years, I believe that I have come to understand the seemingly confused, confusing and at times ambivalent vortex of American politics.

The U.S. foreign policy is determined by a variety of forces whose dogmas and interests stretch from one extreme to another. In-between lies the impressionable, swayed and basically good-hearted majority. The majority and what they think and feel, whether passively or passionately, about one policy or another, is the major factor of the direction this policy takes. The American public opinion can bless the country into a war (World War II, the Gulf) or pressure it out of one (Vietnam).

Any group that wants to influence public opinion effectively has to play that game by its rules — learn how and what buttons to push and what image to portray.

The right image, the powerful picture on TV (most effective medium) and the right word spoken by a charismatic person can sway public opinion. Having the right and just cause is not enough if its image is not packaged effectively; thus image, mainly, is the name of the game.

In the U.S., psychologists, image makers and powerful Madison Square ad agencies can determine whether one wins or loses, be it an election campaign or a cause.

As others have proven their mastery in this game, so far, we, Arabs, have proven our dismal failure at it. And that because we never played the game by its rules. We can start by trying to realise what works for us and not against us.

Thus, it would be a very important and effective step to establish a council of enhancing communications and cooperation with Arabs abroad.

This council could promote and facilitate the process of communication and cooperation between Arabs at home and abroad and between Arab intellectuals and opinion makers and their equals abroad, especially in the U.S. and Europe.

Arab causes, represented by Arab expatriates, will get the right treatment Arabs achieve greater political power. Arab Americans, for example, have been trying to get their voices and concerns heard, but the success of their efforts has been limited due to their limited

resources and the lack of support from their brethren in the Arab World.

More resources and support need to be made available to Arab expatriates together with a much-improved level of coordination and cooperation. The means to reach this goal will have to be, principally, through gaining effective political clout and leverage in the American political arena by helping more Arab Americans get elected to influential political offices across the wide spectrum of American politics. This has been achieved quite successfully by other groups in the U.S.

Another goal should be improving the Arab image, projected to the American public, and conveying the right message regarding what goes on in the Arab World in order for the Americans to understand all aspects of the confusing events in the Arab World and redraw the biased and distorted picture they have always had about this part of the world. The American public needs to be reeducated about the Arab World in a fashion, terms and concepts that make sense to them.

We may choose to convince ourselves that the Western world hates us (for whatever reason we choose to select), but the reality remains that if we want to reach and influence this world (it can be done and others did it), we need to speak its language.

I believe that understanding and implementing the game of public relations and presenting the right image with the right words and pictures would help us achieve the right results.

Coordination and cooperation between available resources (human, financial, political, media, etc.) is the best way to achieve the desired results and to influence our political and economic future.

This way we will make history instead of watching it.

Walid Maaytah,
P.O. Box 212,
Amman 11831.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

day, October 10-11,
by Dr. Ahmad Y. Majid
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Weekender

Jordan Times, Thursday, October 10, 1996 **A**

Society on the Move

The 'up close' side of a royal visit



Above, HRH meets crime reporter Rana Hussein, below he is briefed on the fine service of our shared canteen with Al Ra'i, and at bottom the Regent shares a joke with political reporter Sa'eda Keilani (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)



To us, in this corner and throughout the Jordan Times, Tuesday was the most eventful day of the week. What is more important for Society on the Move than a royal visit to the spot where it all happens, may we ask? "So this is Jenny's corner," the Crown Prince remarked, full of smiles when the writer of this column was introduced to His Royal Highness. "That's right," the answer came from the actual corner of the room where literally all editors and reporters work, debate, scream and even eat six days a week. The brevity of the acknowledgement was also a way of ignoring pleas by the chief editor that the writer also continues to edit the Home News page from that corner. The Crown Prince arrived at around 6:00 p.m., after another characteristically long and busy day. Earlier, he had visited the Kura district. But he was none too tired to shake hands, inquire about work, raise issues and crack a few jokes with everybody in the newsroom before the entire group joined him for an intellectual discussion on various political, economic and media issues facing Jordanians. Prince Hassan, who had a day earlier visited our sister Arabic daily Al Ra'i, took time to note who's who and what's among the relatively small but boisterous editorial staff of the Jordan Times. To P.V. Vivekanand, chief sub-editor, he almost said you are the finger on the pulse of Jordan, "an Indian who knows more about Jordan than many Jordanians." The Crown Prince commented on crime reporter Rana Hussein's "Banana Republic" T-shirt, and listened to chief translator Abu Nader's woes over the late arrival of news items from the Jordan News Agency, Petra. With Sa'eda Keilani he spoke French. When the Regent met our other non-Jordanian colleagues charged with typesetting and proof-reading, he inquired where they had worked before. They all responded that Jordan has been their starting point. And to those who caught it, he quickly remarked about the "upstairs-downstairs" status of working conditions at the Jordan Press Foundation, noting the posh new building housing Al Ra'i and the much more humble quarters of the J.T. The visit alone was most appreciated, but the nearly one-hour meeting with the entire staff was an even rarer opportunity to hear first-hand what and how the Crown Prince thought about issues. Yes, we have covered Prince Hassan's news from afar, but to do it in house offered us all a special insight.



Top left, the Crown Prince meets (right to left) Thomas George, Ravindra Kurup and Pradeep Kumar of our typesetting and proof-reading staff. At top right, chief translator Abu Nader (a.k.a. Elias Nasrallah) explains the ups and downs of an awesome task. Below, one last farewell laugh with Al Rai Chairman Mahmoud Al Kayed (left foreground) and our Chief Editor George Hawatmeh (Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan)



LINKS WITH THE HOMELAND: Another royal visit took place in the U.S.'s southern belt state of Georgia. In the capital, Atlanta, HRH Princess Wijdan Ali inaugurated the Islamic/Arabic Art Exhibit of the Calligraphic Works from the Collection of the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts at Agnes Scott College/DeKalb College and other colleges. While there Princess Wijdan was invited to meet members of the Arab-Jordanian-American Community of Georgia by their association President Marwan Mujalli Amarin. The exchange raised the importance of maintaining what Princess Wijdan described as a healthy and constructive linkage with the motherland Jordan.

THE ROAD HOME: Ambassador Fayed Rabe'e returned to Jordan two weeks ago ending his three-year tour of duty in Yemen. Considered perhaps the most influential of Arab envoys to Sana'a during the period in question, Dr. Rabe'e was instrumental in the Jordanian endeavours spearheaded by His Majesty King Hussein to help bring about the unification of North and South Yemen. In July 1995, he was in Amman for talks during President Ali Abdullah Saleh's first visit to Jordan since his forces defeated southern Yemeni socialists who had challenged the unity of Yemen the year before. Just prior to his departure from Sana'a Dr. Rabe'e was inundated with letters of thanks from Yemeni officials and citizens, one of which wrote a poem in his honour. As Jordan's envoy there he was much appreciated also by Jordanian expatriates who number about 3,000. He was responsible for getting



Fayed Rabe'e

the foreign ministry here to introduce an embassy registration form whereby visitors to any Jordanian embassy could comment on the efficiency and treatment of the staff as well as indicate the purpose of their visit and the who, what, when and where entailed in the visit. But perhaps his most cherished sign of recognition was the Al Wahda (Unity) Medal of the First Order, the highest medal awarded in Yemen, presented to him by President Saleh. While no one has yet been appointed to take his place, Dr. Rabe'e himself is uncertain of what lies ahead for him in the foreign service. With a Ph.D. from Ain Shams University in Cairo in Islamic studies, Dr. Rabe'e says he would enjoy teaching at one of Jordan's universities. Prior to his appointment at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he was director general of community colleges, as well as assistant to the secretary general for scientific affairs, at the Ministry of Higher Education. His earlier diplomatic assignments included cultural attaché at Jordan's embassies in Morocco and Egypt. Dr. Rabe'e also contributed a weekly column to Al Ra'i daily, an activity he may yet resume.

IN A NEW ORBIT: While the Crown Prince was making rounds in the J.T. newsroom he met former BBC Arabic Television Editor Sami Haddad who was also visiting the J.T. but on a different mission. Mr. Haddad is head-hunting for JSC (Jazira Satellite Channel), the new entity which has emerged after the shut down of BBC Arabic TV last April. Mr. Haddad, who has worked in Jordan for both the national television and radio stations, began his BBC career in 1965 at BBC Radio. He came back to Jordan for one year in 1970 to work at Jordan Television, then returned to London to become BBC's Arabic Service editor of current affairs. Although the 1994 launch of BBC Arabic Television through the Orbis Satellite System was contracted to last a happy 10 years, the Saudi-owned Orbit system decided to part ways. Taking advantage of the vacancy is JSC, a Doha-based news and information channel broadcasting through the Middle East and to Europe. Mr. Haddad was in Egypt and Italy before arriving this week to look for recruits for the new satellite channel. He says JSC

will broadcast initially for six hours a day, and that he himself will start recording a television discussion programme on current affairs from a local television station in Qatar for JSC. "It will be a daring and controversial programme," says Mr. Haddad, who adds that he is sure it will be "a hit." Besides, the Qataris are already accustomed to such programmes on the short-lived BBC channel, so offense takers are expected to be few. While here, Mr. Haddad recorded three television programmes on different views by Jordanian personalities on peace, democracy and Iraq, to be aired when the JSC gets rolling.

FOR THEIR WORDS: Last night 11 persons were recognised for their writings during the annual Jordanian Writers Association Awards. The 10 honours were presented to Haidar Mahmoud, Odeh Mdanai, Ziad Qassem, Mohammad Jaber Ansari, George Haddad and Fakhri Kassar (in a joint award), Abdul Rahman Yaghri, Abdullah Radwan, Rawda Hud Hud, Bajaj Abu Gharbieh and Suleiman Sweiss. These cash awards of JD 500 each represent recognition of writers' contributions over years in the areas of literature, the arts, and defence and promotion of public freedoms.

THROWING PUNCHES: Public freedoms appear to mean something quite disturbing to three disgruntled readers of a local periodical. Only a week after the English weekly, The Star, published a feature on the nascent and naughty tabloid Abd Rabbo, its editor, Yousef Gheishan was roughed up on his way to work. According to Mr. Gheishan, last Thursday he was entering the building near the Sports City Circle where Abd Rabbo, and incidentally, Shihan are housed when three men approached him, and one punched him in the groin. Mr. Gheishan grabbed hold of an ashtray preparing to defend himself. The assailants ran off. According to the editor, an hour later he received a telephone call from his alleged attackers threatening that he had best not publish anymore "insulting and slander-

ous" caricatures of officials. Abd Rabbo, which surfaced on the newsstands two months ago, boasts a distinctive trademark with pasted-up portraits of government officials, legislators and other newsmaking personalities and celebrities in attempt said The Star, "to poke fun at sensitive political and social issues." Mr. Gheishan said he suspects that the hooligans who attacked him were dispatched on their gang-style mission by a public official. But, he said, as he has no proof he cannot go public with the name. The final threat during the telephone call, said Mr. Gheishan, was what some might call a not so humorous riddle. "If you continue to print such caricatures, you should know that you are only worth 24 piastres," Mr. Gheishan quoted the alleged assailants as saying. He unravelled the riddle saying 24 piastres is the cost of a bullet.

BELL BOTTOMS: If you are planning to be in Aqaba this week you will very likely note a rash of Italian being spoken about the seaside. This can be attributed to the docking today of the Italian combatant frigate "Espero," say Italian Military, Naval and Air Attaché Col. Luigi Pellegrino. The frigate is performing its summer navigation campaign in the Mediterranean and the Red Sea. On board are 232 Italian seafaring men (no women) who will be given leave to romp around Aqaba. As other visiting ships to our shore, the Espero will welcome anyone interested to tour the frigate on Sunday Oct. 13 from 15:00 to 19:00. Tomorrow evening Commander Canaruto and his officers will host a reception on-board for Jordanian civil and military authorities as well as ambassadors of NATO countries, members of the Italian community in Jordan and other guests. The frigate will pull out of Aqaba on October 14 — destination unknown.

Jennifer Hamarneh

Swedish women, despite image, still far from equality

By Eva Ahlberg
Reuters

STOCKHOLM — Swedish women may be equal to men when it comes to politics. But they still clean, cook and mind children much more than men and have little or no influence in the country's business life. Hailed by the United Nations as one of the most equal countries in the world, and champion of rights such as day care and abortion, Sweden in fact has a long way to go to achieve true equality, fresh data and surveys show. "The equality thing is a bit of a myth in Sweden," said Christina Hultbom, an economics professor at Uppsala University.

"Women work, yes, but their jobs are often caretaking or clerical and they still make less money than men," said Ms. Hultbom, who is conducting a study on women's representation in business. Most Swedish women work today, but they are still far from the powerful, executive jobs held by men and there is only one female managing director among Sweden's 240 listed companies. The political picture, the one seen by the outside world, looks good as Prime Minister Goran Persson's government has a 50/50 split between men and women in top ministerial posts.

"Swedish women have made great progress in trying to achieve full equality. The political arena demonstrates that," Eva Nikell, a spokeswoman for Sweden's equality ombudsman told Reuters. A closer look at what the female ministers do, however, reveals most women hold softer posts than men, including social affairs, equality issues, the environment, education and culture. Ms. Hultbom says the division between men and women is partly the fault of men who guard their power. "There are such few posts which give power, status and money. Obviously these positions are jealously guarded. And Swedish busi-

ness is also bound to tradition," she said. The women are also to blame, she says, as they are bound by their traditional roles as mothers and wives while at the same time trying to hold down full-time jobs. "The Swedish woman is so busy trying to do everything. She has to work full time, have children, take care of her aging parents and do all the cleaning and cooking herself. It is simply a zero sum game," she said. Official statistics support her theory. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, Swedish women still spend more than 30 hours a week on unpaid work, i.e. work in

the household, while men spend around 20 hours per week on similar chores. Women spend more time on cooking, cleaning, washing and ironing, looking after children and shopping than men who traditionally work longer hours on paid work and also put in an hour a week or so on repair work or gardening. Women in business, who like to think of themselves as equal to men, are also faced with the social stigma attached to having hired help. Mona Sahlin, the former deputy prime minister who had been groomed to take over the Social Democratic government earlier this year, found herself out of a

job after a tabloid published allegations that she had misused a government credit card for holidays, nappies and chocolate for her children. Ms. Sahlin, 38, a mother of three, was later cleared of any wrongdoing but her political career was left in ruins and she is no longer the prominent figure she was on the political arena. Ms. Sahlin did not have any hired help and worked more than 12 hours a day. Women's careers may also be hampered in part by a generous social welfare system which entitles them to stay at home with their children for at least a year with the guaranteed right of a similar job upon return.

While a great benefit, this has also served to effectively hamper women's careers as most tend to take off up to a year and a half or even more to care for their children. "Yes you could say that. The fact that women are allowed to stay at home for so long and that most do, does stop them from getting ahead," Ms. Hultbom said. The women who do choose a career and make it to the top are often not rewarded in cash in the same fashion as men. A case in point is Anki Forsberg, the only woman managing director of a stock exchange listed firm, the biotech group Skandigen. According to daily Svens-

ka Dagbladet her salary, this year is 524,000 Swedish crowns (\$80,000), less than half the average salary for men in similar positions. Women also have to pay a price for their careers. "It is tough at the top. Many of the women who make it find out later in life the price may have been too high when they end up disillusioned after perhaps having given up children and perhaps even a partner," Ms. Hultbom said. Swedish women, who like to think of themselves as equal to men, are also still up against sexism, although perhaps not of the blatant kind that may be seen in some other countries.

They really do care about us

By Jean-Claude Elias

THE ARABISATION of personal computers is an endless story. Started in the early eighties with a wave of trial-and-error experiments, it now seems to have reached the age of reason.

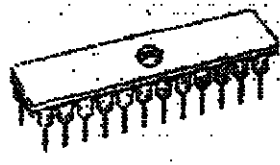
Whereas some developers strongly believed in the hardware-based (HB) solutions, others, Microsoft in particular opted for software-based (SB) ones and kept improving them. A typical example of HB system is the Ameer electronic card, designed and manufactured in Jordan. Plugged inside a PC, the Ameer lets users run most, though not all, programmes in Arabic And English, even if the said programmes were designed for English-only usage. SB solutions on the other hand do not require any modification to the equipment, but tend to run slower than HB systems.

There has always been two systems developed in parallel, the first is the Arabisation of large, dedicated, professional systems like those in banks and large organisations, and the second the PC oriented one. The first type has been working to the satisfaction of users for about 10 years now. Arabisation of PC software however can be qualified as successful only since 1992, with the launch of the truly bilingual Microsoft Windows 3.1 and its related set of word processing and spreadsheet programmes.

In the field of Desk Top Publishing, QuarkExpress is known to be a leading package. Until now it could work with Latin alphabets only — French, English, Italian, German, etc. This year a U.K.-based company launched an additional layer that can easily be added to QuarkExpress, making it fully Arabic-Latin. The innovation comes from the fact that the original package is not modified at all. It retains all its features and possibilities and offers Arabic as a bonus. In other words, the Arabic layer that is added to it is a "plus" and does not deprive the user from any of the original functions. Previous methods of Arabisation used to make drastic modifications to original Latin-only packages, thus reducing their processing power and flexibility.

In another similar, interesting development Microsoft has made the first official presentation of its bilingual Windows 95 and Office Suite this week in Amman. A highly informative and interesting presentation took place before an audience of about 200 guests. Using modern multimedia techniques, a team of Microsoft executives showed the Jordanian audience that Western software companies really do care about them.

chip talk



The opening of the show was the courtesy of Bill Gates himself who talked to the guests, via a short video footage I must say, telling them how important the Arab market was for Microsoft. He added that he may plan a visit to "an" Arab country sometime soon. A technical point worth mentioning is that the new bilingual Windows 95 can be installed with either English or Arabic menus and commands. This gives more flexibility to those who, although having Arabic text and data to manipulate, feel more comfortable with one language or another for selecting menus or issuing commands.

Another innovation is the availability of a built-in Arabic-English and English-Arabic dictionary. Not to confuse with the already Arabic spelling checker, this is a real dictionary that will certainly be of invaluable help to those who want to look up the equivalent of a word in the other language — a step towards future automatic translation maybe.

Beyond the technical progress and interesting features of Arabic QuarkExpress or Windows 95, the obvious conclusion is the effort that Western software companies are making to give the Arab World high quality software products. They deserve our sincere gratitude. Indeed, in spite of a total population of 250 million, the Arab World is not a very lucrative marketplace for software developers. Some Arab countries still do not have copyright laws and some of those who do are not enforcing these laws. In clear, and generally speaking, more than 90 per cent of software used in the Arab World is still illegal, i.e. it comes from pirated copies.

Microsoft announced that its budget for research and development in 1996 was \$2 billion. Foreign software companies may be trying to encourage local authorities to implement copyright laws. They may also be making a bet on the future. We should realise that it is simply in our own interest not to disappoint them.

When the world goes crazy

By Samer Ghaleb Bagaeen

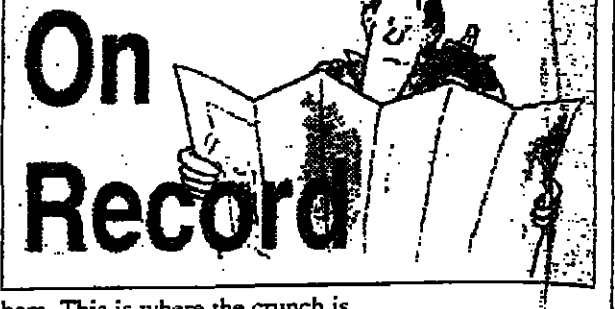
THE WORLD goes crazy when good friends grab at each others' throats simply because they happen to argue over something taken for granted among friends. Things like not showing up for a get-together.

The world also goes crazy because people tend to have a short term memory when it comes to keeping track of the good things in their lives. This means that they tend to put aside everything that was running like clockwork preceding an incident which happens out of the ordinary.

There is no need to be very specific here, but when something banal damages something which was supposed to be firm enough to withstand anything, the whole thing suddenly develops an air of disbelief and disappointment. Disappointment that a friendship, a friendship in the almost unreal sense of the word, can shatter when such a blip occurs. Disappointment that trust suddenly ceases to exist. Disbelief that it can be so easy to forget, or maybe ignore, all the good things that friends come to learn about one another while they prefer to cling to the folly of the moment.

People need to feel comfortable and secure. Accordingly, they baste in the knowledge that they can find security and joy in the things that they keep around them. Things they had been given by other people and friends. Things that they have decided to keep because they saw in them the truest embodiment of happy days and good friendships. Because of all this, these things grow into tokens of love and trust.

When it happens, when every now and then we look around us to find such objects, we are reminded that our friends did actually care. That their love and friendship will always be there, as long as we are prepared to accept



them. This is where the crunch is.

Looking around us, in our rooms, in our homes, wherever, we find these tokens of something that a spiteshould not injure. Maybe.

At times like these, it will hurt because friends should not need to be reminded of all this. They either know or they do not because as I have already said, these things have to do with a love and trust that reside deep within the human soul.

The way forward is to grow up. To face up to who we are and what we want to be. It will not be easy for some, but it is one of those things from which there can be no escape. It will involve taking a close look at ourselves and our feelings towards others. If there is the slightest hint of love, the opportunity should be grasped at immediately to avoid limping along the rest of the way.

Honesty with ourselves as far as our own private — private until we decide to share them with someone — feelings are concerned should come way before we tell others how we feel about them.

Once people get into the habit of doing this, they will be on the right track.

JTV CHANNEL TWO WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, October 10, 1996

12:00 Yes Minister

2:00 Holy Koran
2:05 Iris
2:30 Take Your Pick
3:00 French Programme
3:30 Feature Film
5:00 News Flash
5:01 Con. Feature Film
6:00 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Pacific Station
8:01 American Chart Show
8:30 Material World
9:00 Kung Fu
10:00 News In English
10:25 Feature Film
12:00 Taratata

Monday, October 14, 1996

2:00 Holy Koran
2:05 Muppet Show
2:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
3:00 French Programme
3:30 French Programme
4:00 Documentary
4:30 Hey Dad
5:00 News Flash
5:01 Destiny Ridge
6:00 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Rosanne
8:01 Documentary
8:30 Cinema, Cinema
9:10 The Lazarus Man
10:00 News In English
10:30 Best Seller
11:15 Bodies Of Evidence
12:00 Dad's Army

Friday, October 11, 1996

2:00 Holy Koran
2:05 Iris + Muppet Show
2:30 Play About
3:00 See How They Grow
3:30 French Cartoon
4:00 Crystal Maze
5:00 News Flash
5:01 Name Your Adventure
5:30 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Growing Pains
8:01 Secret Weapons
9:10 The Wanderer
10:00 News In English
10:25 Classic Movie
12:00 Family Matters

Tuesday, October 15, 1996

2:00 Holy Koran
2:05 Budgie
2:30 I Love Lucy
3:00 French Programme
3:30 French Programme
4:00 At The Zoo
4:30 Alf
5:00 News Flash
5:01 Fun With Physics
5:15 Road To Avonlea
6:00 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Murphy Brown
8:00 Man Alive
8:01 Documentary
8:30 Encounter
9:10 Star Trek
10:00 News In English
10:30 China Beach
11:15 Mission Impossible
12:00 Are You Being Served

Saturday, October 12, 1996

2:00 Holy Koran
3:05 Adventures Of Mickey And Donald
2:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
3:00 French Programme
3:30 French Programme
4:00 Gillette (Sports)
4:30 Big Brother Jake
5:00 News Flash
5:01 French Programme
5:15 Blue Heelers
6:00 Jake
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Something Wilder
8:01 Documentary — New Literacy
8:30 Prism (local Talk Show)
9:10 Lois And Clarke
10:00 News In English
10:30 Mini Series — Best Seller
11:15 Feature Film

Wednesday, October 16, 1996

Sunday, October 13, 1996

2:00 Holy Koran
2:05 Fievels Americans Tails
2:30 You Bet Your Life
3:00 French Programme
3:30 French Programme
4:00 World Echo
4:30 The Famous Five (Drama)
5:00 News Flash
5:01 Search And Rescue
6:00 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 Fresh Prince Of Bel-Air
8:01 Auto - Classics
8:30 Album Show
9:10 Blackie's Magic
10:00 News In English
10:30 Madson
11:15 Miami Vice

2:00 Holy Koran
2:05 Muppet Show
2:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
3:00 Pyramide
3:30 French Programme
4:00 Documentary
4:30 Blizzard Island
5:00 News Flash
5:01 The Adventurers + Kelly
6:00 French Programme
7:30 News Headlines
7:35 The Four Seasons
8:01 Super Stars Of Action
8:30 Challenges
9:10 N.B.A. Basketball
10:00 News In English
10:30 Bugs
11:10 Hart To Hart
12:00 Who Is The Boss?

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuqair

LET'S CHAT IN ARABIC

** I mean it.
Enni aa'ni ma aqul.

** You should leave this habit.
Yajeb an tatrok haathehil aadah.

** I never knew.
Lam akon a'rif thaaleka abadan.

** That's not true.
Laysa thaaleka sahihan.

** That's an excellent idea.
Ennaha fikra munataza.

** I'll do the same as you.
Sa'af'al mithloka.

** Who is responsible for all that?
Manil Mass'ool ann kolli hatha?

** Tell me what you have done.
Qull lee ma fa'alt.

Navy, died in 1805, his body was transported to England on board a ship. The corpse was submerged with brandy to prevent decay.

* An elephant can hear the footsteps of a mouse.
* A team consisting of 10 people have succeeded to harvest a corn field, change it into flour, dough and bake it within 8 minutes, fourteen seconds.
* In the town of Port Isaac, England, there is a 40-centimetre wide alley called an "Abdomen Sucking Lane."
* The ox can run up a hill faster than running it down.
* In Maryland, USA, there exists a village whose name means "Tuberculosis" (T.B.).
* In 37.9 seconds, a billiard player could drop 15 balls into pockets.
* A blind photographer managed to shoot a movie in 1920.

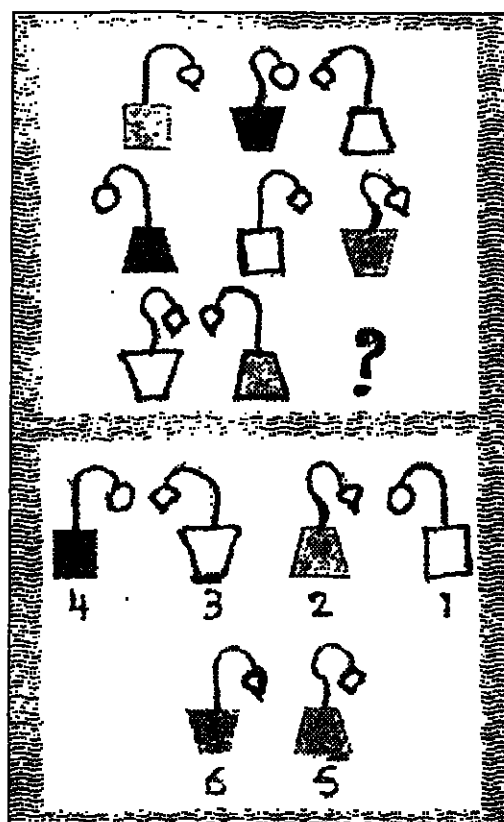
PUZZLES

(A) Seven runners took part in a 1000-metre race. They came in the following order:

— Jack was a half metre behind Tom.
— James overran Peter by a half metre.
— At the end of the race, Peter advanced Jack.
— Three racers were behind John.
— Pip overran Peter by one metre.
— George overran John by a half-metre.

N.B. no distance exceeded a half metre between each runner.
Can you give the exact position of every participant in the race?

(B) Through your examination of the relation between the figures in the upper and lower rows, try to find out which of the numbered figures can replace the question mark (?).



BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

- Who is the first lady to appear in a movie with her husband president? Name the film.
- Why are interlocking Olympic rings the colours of black, blue, green, red and yellow?
- What did the ethnic American refer to an Iron Horse?
- What is the parliament of Poland called?
- What is the oldest city in the United States?

AMAZING FACTS

- When Horatio Nelson, the legendary hero of the British

RENDEZVOUS WITH ART

The triumph of colours

Features of refugee camp dwellings form basis for Phase III of Ghada Dahdaleh's 'Doors and Windows' monoprint art exhibition

By Mahmoud I. Mufti

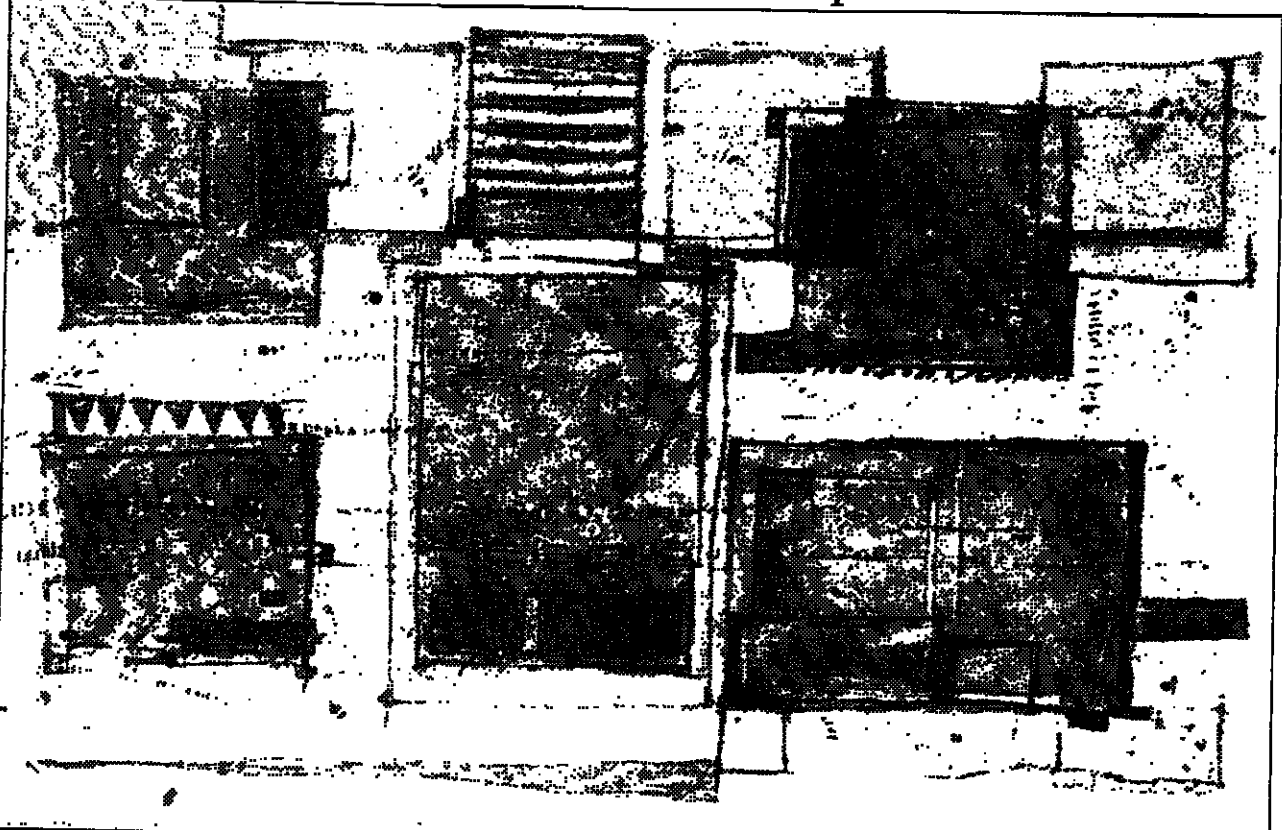
"COLOURS SPEAK all languages," commented English essayist, poet and dramatist, Joseph Addison (1672-1719), in *The Spectator*. A century and a half later, artist, writer and critic, John Ruskin (1819-1900) remarked that: "The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love colour the most." (*The Stones of Venice*).

Few 'imaginables' in Mother Nature's prolific inventory of plant and animal creations serve to exemplify — with such resplendent jubilation — the notions of colour, shades and hues, as do the brilliant plumages of the tropical American Macaw Parrot, the defiantly glaring stripes of the Red Sea Angel Fish, or the subtle striations of the Tulip's petals.

Few 'realisables' in man's long-cultivated tradition of creative self-expression and artistry yield as much diversity in, and celebration of the aesthetic magnificence of 'colour' as do the ceremonial dragon-suits of Bangkok's street carnivals, the hunting-ritual face decorations of Papua New Guinea's Asmat warrior tribesmen, or the near-dazzling conspiracy of colours in the intricate embroidery of rural Arab women of the East and West Banks of the River Jordan.

It was initially the allure of that fine art, embroidery — in the form of lavish and lustrous gowns (or "Taubas") worn till this day by still-rural local women and their urbanised, formerly-rural counterparts — that exercised a mesmerising, and consequently, gravitational influence, on artist Ghada Dahdaleh.

Paraphrasing research at the time, (late 80's), in various cultural, social and artistic aspects of Jordan's Palestinian refugee camps, the artist worked with some of the women there who still practised the coveted art of decorative embroidery. Combining their decades-old skills in precision cross-stitching — as well as their inherited knowledge of the seemingly infinite variations in pattern-combinations and configurations — with her own artistic input, Ms. Dahdaleh and the camp-women embarked on a project of "talent-combining." This created an enduring professional and personal bond between them, enabling them to respect, appreciate and even celebrate one another's artistry.



Multi-media monoprint, *Doors and Windows* — III, by artist Ghada Dahdaleh

Soon thereafter, a chrysalis of new hybrid designs — practically applied to garments, cushion-covers and personal accessories — emerged from the puparium of innovative cooperation. The selection of the colour-blends, thereto unused, was that of Ms. Dahdaleh, whereas the execution of the new designs was entrusted to the meticulous craftsmanship of the camp-women. The artist matched the new and unusual colours with a relocation of specific pattern-groupings within the overall design configurations.

Reaching those artisan-ladies involved snaking and meandering one's way deep through the camps' tight alleyways and streets. Characterising most homes — features dictated by rampant poverty and destitution — were rusty, ramshackle, corrugated-metal doors and flimsy makeshift windows.

These "architectural features" did not go unnoticed by the artist, nor did the myriad graffiti-markings on the dwellings' doors and walls. More and more similar discoveries were made by Ms. Dahdaleh in the course of her visitations there, whereupon her creative instincts took over and spawned a new and parallel artistic vision: The collective experience therein was to constitute the genesis of her inspiration for three major mixed-media, monoprint art exhibitions, predictably under the titles of "Doors and Windows" — phases I, II & III — rendered in 1990, 1994 and 1996 respectively.

Ghada Dahdaleh's current exhibition of monoprints represents a 'Triumph of Colours' in the truest sense. The works, 68 in all, are divided into several groups of slightly varying styles and distinct sizes. The most breathtaking series are 36 small (17cm x 17cm) monoprints arranged together, grid-like, on a single partition-wall.

The colours therein instantly recall the resplendent hues of the aforementioned Macaw Parrot of the Central and South American Tropics. The effect on the viewer is, at once tantalising, addictive, and rejuvenative. In a word, "therapeutic." One begins to think of the colours of innocence associated with childhood. The most brilliant — almost phosphorescent — blues, purples, indigos and turquoises abound.

Other colours yet — thalo-green, yellow-ochre, flame-orange, and pimiento-red — conspire to evoke the most luscious of fruits: Kiwis, passion fruits, melons, nectarines, mangoes, etc. consequently rendering visitors at this stage in the tour of the exhibit very much like Pavlov's salivating dogs.

Contextually, this series is the least connected to the theme of "Doors and Windows," but with such gasp-inducing aesthetic attributes, such a disconnection would appear to be of little concern to most visitors. If anything, a genuine feeling of melancholy comes to prevail in the viewers' aesthetic faculties at the prospect of this glorious conglomeration of mini-monoprints — effectively an abstract 'mosaic ensemble' — being dismantled at the exhibition's end.

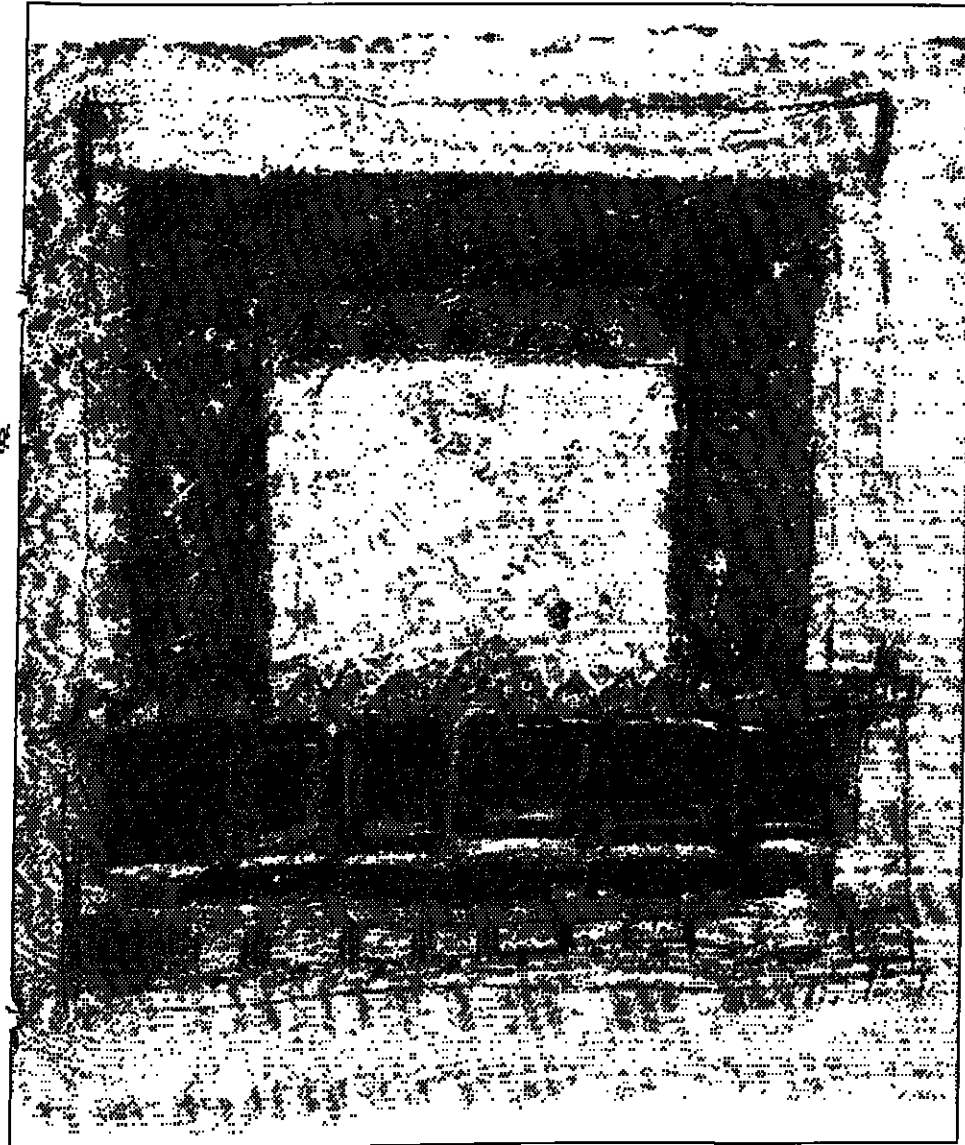
A lone group of 6 works, featuring muddled colours of browns, beiges, indigos, mauves, rust, grey and black are inspired by tombstones and epitaphs at a Roman-Byzantine cemetery of the early Christian era in Wadi Feinan in the South. Several artists, inclusive of Ms. Dahdaleh, have found the excavation site there so serenely pristine and evocative, that they have arranged for most of the proceeds from the projected sales of their works (pertaining to the site) to bolster the efforts of the archaeological team overseeing the excavation. The British Institute in Amman for Archaeology and History.

The true masterpiece of the exhibit, however — in terms of originality, enduring aesthetic value and evident technical complexity — is a series of 12 highly-textured monoprints of varying sizes (though some, to their credit, are of colossal dimensions). Imbuing the works with their simultaneously mystical and elusive qualities is the use of high-fibre, all natural hand-made paper, perfected by the artist at a recent workshop at Darat Al Funun, headed by artist Susan Fateh.

"The possibilities are infinite when it comes to selecting the attributes you want for the paper," says Ms. Dahdaleh. "Accordingly, the raw ingredients are very important. Fibers of all sorts are used: Sources include onion-peels, wheat and corn husks and sheafs, tree-bark, etc. These are soaked thoroughly, beaten and in certain cases, pulverized in a liquidiser. After the necessary intermediate steps are taken, the material is mixed together with a special adhesive agent in solution, endowing the final paper-product with its structural integrity. Once the wet mix is ready, it is laid flat on a glass plate, on top of which a tightly outstretched silk-screen is positioned. Paints, of the artists choice, are then applied on different areas of the screen, some overlapping, some distinctly apart. Using a squeegee, applied with considerable downward force, the paint is next pressed through the pores of the silk fabric, whereupon it is rapidly absorbed by the fibre-paper. Several repetitions of this process are required to enrich the paper with the desired intensity of colour-pigment."

What follows after the paper is biscuit-dry is the actual "drawing," using chalk and oil-based pastels.

The current exhibition at the French Cultural Centre, Jabel Luweibdeh, opened on Oct. 2, and will close on Oct. 29.



Multi-media monoprint on hand-made paper by Ghada Dahdaleh



Country music superstar Dolly Parton shows off her 1996 Country Music Award recently to the press after winning the Vocal Event of the Year for her version of I Will Always Love You she recorded with Vince Gill (Reuter photo)

Treasures — Dolly Parton's last shot with country radio stations

By Jim Patterson
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tennessee — Dolly Parton, age 80, sitting in a rocking chair on her front porch somewhere in the great Smoky Mountains, strumming an auto-harp?

Hard to fathom, huh? Especially when she's wearing a bustier.

The image is supposed to be Dolly in her golden years.

But it's pretty hard to envision the bodice-burning blonde ever slowing down. At 50, she's as thin and glamorous as a model, dressed in white denim with a black bustier laced at her famous cleavage.

And yet, here she is waxing about her retirement. Do you believe her? If so, it's time for a reality check. A born huckster does not willingly fade away.

With a conspiratorial smile and nudge to the ribs comes the pitch: "And I'll be pushing those home-made tapes. But will you come and write about me then?"

Probably. Certainly. Most definitely. Because Dolly Parton is an event unto herself.

She arrives at the Music Row offices of her new record company and even staffers who have dealt with famous people for decades openly gawk. A tiny blur in the middle of a bus-load of band members and hangers-on. Parton quickly establishes cheerful dominance of her domain.

"What is this?" she scolds a young publicist who is trying to squeeze in more interviews than she was expecting. Just as he appears to be actually shrinking, she smiles and squeezes his shoulder and says, "I'll do it this time."

In similar fashion, Parton is trying to cajole country radio programmers to take another listen to her music. Caught in the same quandary as other still-vital

country stars now considered passe by radio programmers, she has switched from Sony to the New Rising Tide Records (distributed by UNI).

She is promoting *Treasures*, an album she says may be her last effort to appeal to the country format. This time she has sidelined her own formidable writing skills in favour of familiar hits such as *Behind Closed Doors* and *For The Good Times*. As an added attraction, she and producer Steve Buckingham have packed the CD with guest appearances by stars like Alison Krauss, Ladysmith Black Mambazo and members of Blues Traveller and Los Lobos.

The first single is *Just When I Needed You Most*, a No. 4 pop hit for Randy VanWarmer in 1979. Krauss harmonises and John Sebastian, ex-leader of the Lovin' Spoonful, plays autoharp.

"It's me trying to still get played on country radio," Parton said. "If I don't get some play even with this ... then I'll realise that I'm not wanted in country music."

She says she'll try and target the adult contemporary market if country radio isn't interested. Parton will support the CD with a CBS Television special on Nov. 30.

"People don't realise how serious I do take the music," Parton said. "And I've tried a lot of things through the years because I have ... the theme park (Dollywood in east Tennessee) and other ways to make a living."

"Some of the older artists that's my same age ... they can't get a record played, therefore they can't even work in the honky-tonks unless it's beer joints. And that makes me sad."

Parton's talent and image will likely keep her out of beer joints for the duration. She has a viable career in Hollywood and is working on a sitcom for television,

after her variety show failed a few seasons back. A Broadway show is a possibility, when she finds or writes the appropriate material. Dollywood, in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, is a success each summer season.

"I had to overcome my image for my music's sake, but by the same token it's my image that's allowed me to do so many of the other things," Parton said. "I don't regret it, it's just a balancing act."

A child prodigy in her native east Tennessee, Parton moved to Nashville to pursue a country music career the day after her high school graduation. She replaced Norma Jean as Porter Wagoner's duet partner in 1967, and he helped launch her solo career by producing her records.

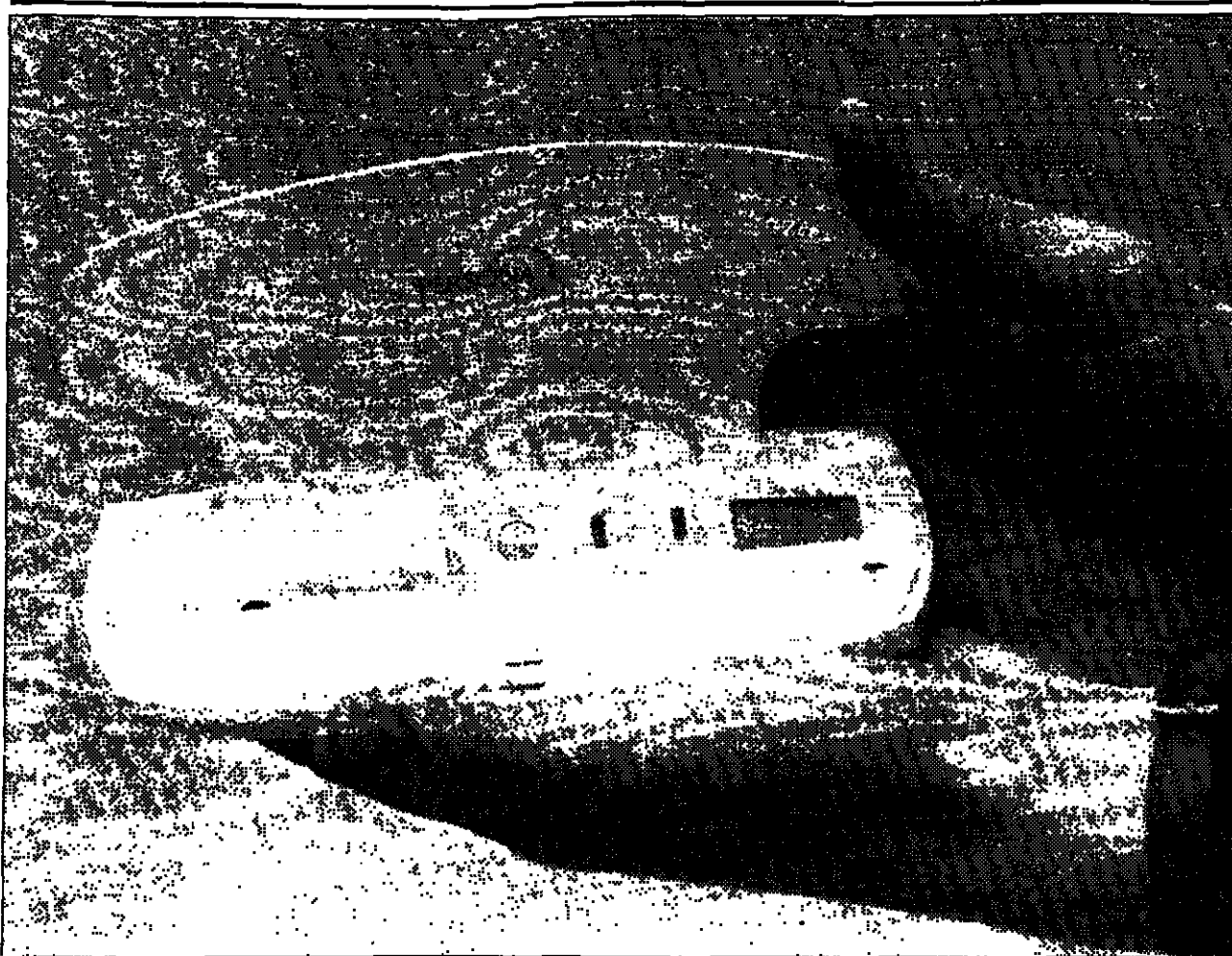
Her classic records, many written by Parton herself, came in the 1970s. Among the best were *Coat of Many Colours*, *Jolene* and *The Bargain Store*.

She shocked Nashville when she went pop in 1977, with the No. 3 hit *Here You Come Again*, hits like *9 to 5* and *Islands In The Stream* followed, as did high-profile roles in movies including *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas* and *Steel Dawn*.

Parton says country music was always her preference, but it just didn't pay to pursue it in the 1970s the way it does now.

"I wasn't making any money here even though I had chart records, and even No. 1 records," Parton said. "Jolene sold 60,000 copies, which was no money. I couldn't even buy make-up remover for that, and I had a band and a bus and everything else."

"I have no regrets of what I've done. I have taken chances and I'm still taking chances."



Pictured is the Persona, a contraceptive device that tells women when they cannot become pregnant. The Persona consists of a small hand-held monitor and disposable urine test sticks that measure a woman's hormone levels by using simple urine tests which are read by the monitor (Renter photo)

Monitor aims to make love contraceptive free

LONDON (R) — A sex monitor was launched in Britain that will allow women to tell when its safe to make love without using contraceptives.

The ovulation meter Persona, marketed by Anglo-Dutch group Unilever, works by testing the hormones in a woman's urine to judge when ovulation has taken place.

"The monitor will indicate a green light when a woman is free to make love without using a contraceptive and a red light on the days on which she is at risk of becoming pregnant," Unilever said.

Unilever said Persona was 95 per cent reliable — about the same as condoms. It should allow couples to have sex without using contraceptives on most days of

the month.

The company said the device, developed after 15 years of research at a cost of tens of millions of dollars, should become available in more than 20 countries in Europe, Australasia and North America by 2000.

Consisting of a small hand-held monitor and disposable urine test sticks, it will retail in Britain at £49.95 (\$77.98) including the first set of 16 test sticks.

"Persona will have a major impact on the lives of many women and their partners," said Leendert Staal, chairman of the Unilever unit that produces the meter.

Communities learn to cure their own ills

By Macdara Doyle

DUBLIN — When countries in the West send health workers to less-developed parts of the world they usually think they have much to teach and little to learn.

But now a health centre in Ireland is adopting a reverse approach — based on lessons learned throughout the developing world. The principle is that if you do not consult people about their needs, even building the best-equipped, most modern facilities will not achieve much success in curing diseases or making people healthier.

John Kevany, a professor of international health in the Department of Community Health and General Practice at Dublin's Trinity College, gives an example of a health project that went wrong in rural India.

A health-care worker arrived at the health centre promptly every morning at nine o'clock. But by then, local women were already toiling in the fields. And by the time they finished their work, it had closed for the day.

The community needed health care, but was not getting it, and the health centre and workers waited for patients who never came — a problem that could have been avoided with a little community planning.

A specialist in development studies, Prof. Kevany is now involved with a health project in Ireland that draws inspiration from such cases.

In 1991, Prof. Kevany and his colleagues in Trinity's Community Health Depart-

The community approach to health care — in which people have influence over the provision of their own medical services — has become standard in many developing countries. Now the idea is beginning to catch on in poorer parts of the developed world

ment became involved with a programme organised through the European Union anti-poverty initiative to target under-developed areas of Europe. It included one area in Connemara, a region along the western seaboard of Ireland where standards are among the lowest in the republic.

Whether in the developing or industrial world, poverty can lead to health problems — malnutrition, susceptibility to illness — and is often best treated through education, employment projects, and environmental improvements.

Armed with advice from Prof. Kevany and his colleagues, the community set out to establish its basic health needs. A survey helped to create a health profile of local people.

The approach, Prof. Kevany explains, was considered a bit of a radical departure, and was derived primarily from the experience of health-care workers in the developing world.

The usual bureaucratic approach to health care is essentially hierarchical — broad health policies are formulated and implemented from above. The Connemara project was "built from the bottom up."

As it happened, the project area was home to three nurses who had worked in Bangladesh. All had experience planning health services in conjunction with the community and, crucially, in promoting community input.

Sadly, most volunteer health workers who go abroad find that when they return, bureaucracies in the West have little time for their expertise. The Connemara project was perhaps the first occasion that such knowledge was put to good use.

When the survey was completed, results were presented to the regional health-care authority. A crucial component listed several areas in which the community could contribute, whether by fund-raising or by volunteering services.

Initially suspicious, local bureaucrats eventually recognised the project's value and realised it could end duplication of services and provide savings, simply because health care was delivered where and when it was needed.

The first tangible result was to provide medical services to elderly residents in a small town. In the past, they had had to make a

three-hour round trip to the nearest city.

The plan now, Prof. Kevany says, will be for local people to elect a health group to work in conjunction with a community health council.

Similar projects are being adopted in at least two parts of eastern Ireland that suffer high levels of unemployment and poverty.

These initiatives are still new and are unlike most Western health systems, which Prof. Kevany says have "grown progressively more dependent on technological innovation" and freemarket economics. Where the latter prevails, the former democratises: where one concentrates wealth and power in unaccountable hands, the other disperses it throughout the community.

It was perhaps in recognition of these trends that in 1989 the World Health Organisation (WHO) established a Division of Integrated Cooperation with Countries. Since then, WHO has organised a series of conferences, including one this year in Ireland that centred on the theme of learning from non-governmental organisations and from their history of community consultation.

While it is too early to make a final judgment on the project, Prof. Kevany is enthusiastic about its potential.

People have enjoyed previously unimaginable input which could help break down the social isolation and marginalisation faced by people in deprived communities — Gemini News.

ANSWERS

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

5. St. Augustine, Florida (founded September, 1565).

1. Nancy Davies Reagan in Hellicats of the Navy (1957).
2. They represent the colours that are present in every national flag.
3. Department of energy; locomotive engine.
4. Sejm.

PUZZLES

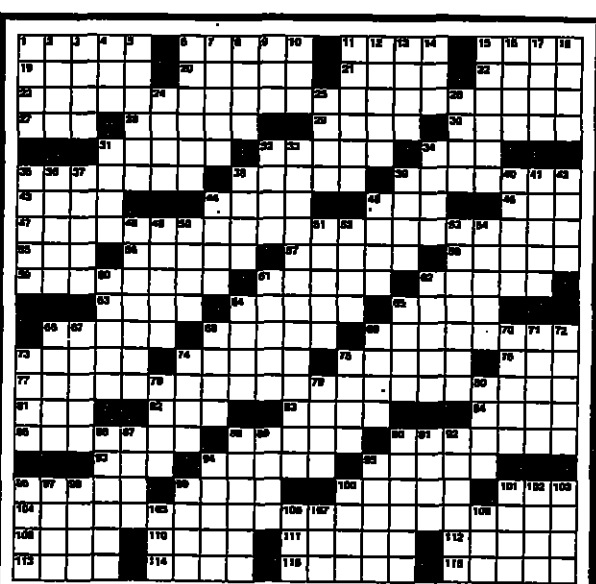
B - Figure No. 4.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

REMEMBER?

By James P. McWalters

- ACROSS
1. Fernando or Lorraine
 6. Hectolitre
 11. Look for
 15. FDI's dog
 19. Egghead
 20. Come off
 21. Ration off
 22. Scotch
 23. 1990s event
 27. Preview to
 28. Computer
 29. Device
 30. Power to
 31. Narrow street
 32. "Mash" character
 33. Associate
 34. Before part
- DOWN
1. Theater box
 2. State strongly
 3. Home
 4. Bark machine
 5. Tar
 7. Worker's delight
 8. Horrible
 9. Collection of
 10. End break
 11. Capers to
 12. Character of a
 13. Range of water
 14. The last
 15. Satisfied
 16. Russian island
 17. Wary
 18. Warden
 24. Swelling
 25. A musical of

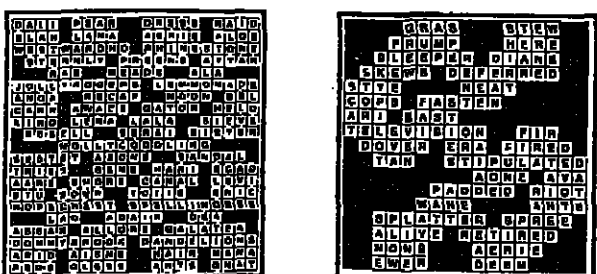


Diagramless, 17 x 17

By Adam Christopher

- ACROSS
1. Outcast
 6. Evergreen tree
 9. Blasted
 11. Put on large
 12. Satisfied
 13. Social
 14. Whiffing
 15. Gallstones
 16. Desideratum
 18. State of type
 20. Heads back
- DOWN
1. Tissues
 2. Prerequisite
 3. Seal — Marie
 4. — Pain
 5. Safe petition
 6. Send messages
 7. In a way
 8. Unemployed
 9. Holier than
 10. Ottoman Empire
 11. One awarded by others

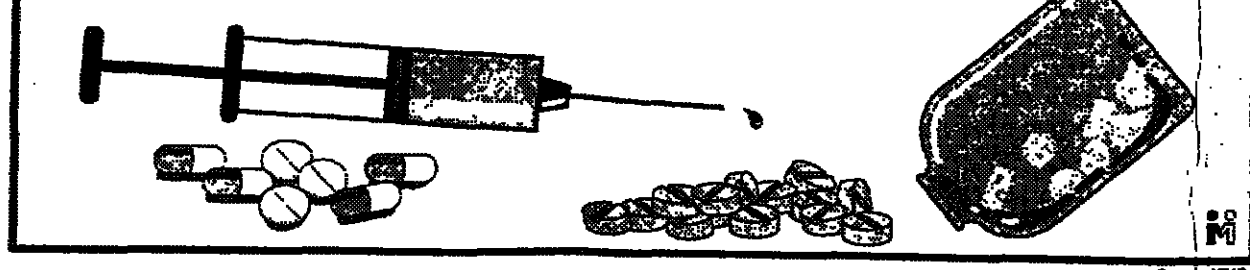
SOLUTIONS OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE



Health and hardship

	Population (000)	Health expenditure per capita (US\$)	Infant mortality per 1,000 live births	Physicians per 100,000 people	Life expectancy at birth	GNP per capita (US\$)
United States	257,840	2,755	8	238	76	23,244
France	57,379	1,869	7	300	77	22,284
Japan	124,959	1,538	5	164	79	28,194
Botswana	1,352	139	60	...	61	2,794
Kenya	26,090	16	85	5	59	314
Nigeria	119,326	10	95	17	53	320
Bangladesh	122,210	7	107	...	53	220
Nepal	21,086	7	98	6	54	170

... Data not available



Hospital radio station for children allays anxieties

By Tracy Fields

The Associated Press

MIAMI — Radio Lollipop has many of the trappings of a typical radio station: Phone-in requests, contests, top 40 hits, even the news.

But it's music to the ears of its listeners: Hospitalised children eager for a break from the boredom and anxiety of being patients.

An interactive network, Radio Lollipop transmits through in-room televisions to patients at hospitals in Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom. Its 17th and newest station, at Miami Children's Hospital, is the first in the United States.

Radio Lollipop's volunteer presenters bring the children top 40 tunes, musical nursery rhymes, competitions and Lollipop News. They also take requests, field phone calls from listeners and assist youngsters playing disc jockey.

Meanwhile, other volunteers roam the hospital, cheering young patients, helping them in the competitions, talking with parents, encouraging those who can to visit the control room adjacent to the hospital playroom.

One recent day, kids and parents gathered around the studio glass, watching Doug Turkel do his terrific Tuesday show. With him was John Weidmann, 13, for the first challenge of the

day: Name two professional sports teams in different towns with the same name.

An easy one for John: The National Hockey League's Florida Panthers and National Football League's Carolina Panthers. He was rewarded with a shiny silver Radio Lollipop balloon.

John, a regular at Miami Children's who has pseudocolon obstruction syndrome, was one of the station's first volunteers.

"A lot of kids are in isolation, they can't get out of their rooms and all," John says. "A lot of the teenagers like music; we have music."

"You can call and win prizes. It's like a real radio station — well, it is, but ..." he glances around the control room, with its purple carpet bearing a hopscotch field, a tiny door alongside the regular one and walls covered with good wishes from Radio Lollipop in the United Kingdom. The audience laughs.

Turkel is the only professional broadcaster on the team, which has started with a limited schedule of two hours a night, three nights a week.

"It's a lot different from regular radio stations," he says. "There's a lot more to do: More contests, more music because the songs are shorter."

The new station at Miami Children's Hospital is a bit with the kids, but not every

song played on Radio Lollipop is popular with everybody.

Anthony Rios, 5, is not pleased to hear Colours Of The Wind from the movie Pocahontas, but his new friend, Radio Lollipop volunteer Edwin Perez, had an idea: "Let's put our hands over our ears." Anthony covered his ears and showed his dimples. "On the surface, it can look as though this is just a laugh for kids," says Radio Lollipop International Director Hedley Finn, in town for the launch of this newest operation. But there's much more to it.

The volunteers who visit the children during shows are part of the hospital care team, Mr. Finn says. In addition to their Radio Lollipop training, they're educated by the hospital's volunteer services and medical staffs.

They report their observations in writing and, after just a few days of operation, Radio Lollipop had uncovered a problem with a young patient.

The kids were asked to draw their favourite foods. A volunteer was disturbed by one patient's drawing and the medical staff was alerted.

"They felt that child was suffering from depression," Mr. Finn says.

Of course, the fun and games are important, too, says project manager Renay Rouse. "Radio Lollipop's almost like a new toy. Their ex-

pression changes; their faces light up; you start seeing them move around more. They're coming down to see this new play place."

For children, hospitalisation "has a quite extensive psychological and sociological impact," says Miami Children's staff psychiatrist Eduardo Ragolta. "It's another way to relieve some of the anxieties associated with it."

"There's always been the magic of radio as opposed to TV. With radio you can use your imagination. With TV you're extremely passive."

Radio Lollipop is funded by donations. McArthur Dairy's \$50,000 contribution was a big help. Outfitting the control room cost \$80,000. Mr. Finn says, and the annual operating budget, mostly for play materials and prizes, will run \$10,000 to \$15,000.

Mr. Rouse and Mr. Finn would like to operate more hours and extend the Radio Lollipop area into a hallway outside the control and playrooms. That would require specially built play equipment, which would cost \$50,000 to \$60,000.

But already, Ana Villafane likes Radio Lollipop a lot. The bespectacled 7-year-old won a T-shirt in one of the competitions.

"It's a good opportunity for kids," she says. "It gives them a chance to win something that's not from Santa Claus."

World

1995 arms sales rose 15 per cent to \$30b

LONDON (R) — Preliminary data show 1995 world arms sales rose by 15 per cent to \$30.2 billion on increased demand from the Middle East and East Asia, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said Wednesday.

But despite the signs of recovery the figures were the second lowest since 1987, when cold war rivalry pushed the total up to \$78.6 billion, the IISS said in its annual report on the state of world's armed forces.

Saudi Arabia was the single largest buyer of weapons last year, snapping up \$8.1 billion compared to \$6.9 billion in 1994. Overall Middle East purchases were \$12.8 billion, up from \$12 billion in 1994.

"Increasing oil prices over the past year have boosted the economies of the Gulf states after several years in the doldrums and will help those governments largely dependent on oil revenues to pay for the continued wave of new equipment orders following the 1991 Gulf war," the IISS said.

East Asia bought \$7.3 billion, up from \$6.2 billion, largely thanks to increased purchases by India, Taiwan, South Korea, Pakistan, China, Thailand and Vietnam.

For the first time, the region's figures exceeded those of NATO countries and western Europe where purchases fell to \$6.5 billion from \$7.4 billion in 1994.

The United States accounted for \$13.3 billion, or 44 per cent of total sales.

Russia almost doubled its total to \$3 billion, but it was a far cry from the heady days of 1987 when the Soviet Union sold \$29.1 billion worth of weapons.

"Since 1992, Russia's defence procurement has declined by around two-thirds in value terms compared to average Soviet levels," the IISS report said.

Palestinian economic development goes from bad to worse

NABLUS, West Bank (AFP) — Palestinian businessman Ibrahim Abdul Hadi stood in the expansive office of his new seven-storey building late last year and spoke with excited anticipation about the end of Israeli occupation.

Projects for hotels, factories, housing and tourism were set to get under way with the help of foreign investors once the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) assumed control of the last major towns on the West Bank.

But 10 months later, Mr. Abdul Hadi looked depressed as he sat slumped in his plush office chair. "Everyone was looking forward to peace, and now we have it and it has brought nothing."

The managing director of the Arab Insurance Company and leading Palestinian developer added, "There is tragedy, violence and more economic hardship."

The high aspirations of many Palestinian business leaders as self-rule came to the West Bank in December 1995, following the Gaza Strip a year which got autonomy earlier, have been shattered by a peace process on the verge of collapse.

Israel's blockade of the territories, imposed after the deadly wave of Palest-

inian suicide bombings in the Jewish state in February and March, has squeezed the life out of economic development and scared off investors, business leaders say.

The situation has gone from bad to worse, they add, after the bloody clashes two weeks ago between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian demonstrators and police, which killed more than 80 people in the worst outbreak of violence between the two sides in 30 years.

"How can we attract any investment in this environment," said Ma'az Nabulsi, president of the chamber of commerce in Nablus, the largest Palestinian city on the West Bank and its economic hub.

"They say that economic development is the key to peace. But you can't have economic development without peace and security," he added.

Mufeed Al Akkad and a Palestinian business partner living in Jordan staked out their faith in the peace process even before the arrival of self-rule.

They opened a clothing factory called ABACO in Nablus shortly after the signing of the Oslo autonomy accords between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Sep-

tember 1993.

The factory employs 180 people and recently won a contract from the British retail chain Marks and Spencer to make blue jeans. After receiving its first 24,000 pairs of ABACO jeans, the chain ordered another 100,000. Mr. Akkad said.

"The contract is very important because it opens markets to Europe and America," said Mr. Akkad, whose company had more than a million dollars in sales last year.

But ABACO has had to delay the delivery of about 6,600 jeans to Marks and Spencer for October because of Israel's tightened blockade of Nablus following last month's violence, with Israeli tanks now positioned just outside the city.

"I've been apologising a lot by fax," Mr. Akkad said. "They seem to understand."

Fahmi Bakre, 28, a driver for ABACO, has been forced to work as a receptionist at the factory over the past two weeks because of the Israeli encirclement.

With 50 per cent unemployment in Nablus, Mr. Bakre said he's concerned about his wife and baby girl. "I'm scared about the future. I can't lose my job."

Despite the economic tribulations, Samir Al Masri

said he plans to double the size of his paint factory in Nablus with the arrival in November of \$300,000 worth of equipment from the French company Rouselle, based in Lille.

"There are only two alternatives, peace or chaos," said Mr. Al Masri, whose Arab paint company has benefitted from the mini-construction boom that came with self-rule. "If we return to violence, none of it will matter anyway."

The Arab Paint Company, which employs 26 people, has had to pay storage fees and fines for raw materials stuck at the port of Tel Aviv for the last two weeks because of the blockade.

The company has an association with another French company, PIC Industries, based in Bordeaux, which provides materials and know-how in the production of paint and other finishes, with French experts coming to the company's factory in Nablus every few months.

None of the business leaders expressed much confidence in the emergency peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians which began Sunday.

"When I look into the future, all I see is darkness," Mr. Akkad said.

Britain urges quick help for indebted states

BERMUDA (R) — Britain has told the world's major creditors not to wait for each other to provide vital debt relief for poor countries.

Help is vital if developing countries are to attract private investors but they must be prepared to open up their economies and not throw money away on military spending, Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke told Commonwealth finance ministers.

"We now stand on the threshold of an agreement to the heavily indebted poor country initiative," he said.

"We need to agree that the main creditors — the World Bank, the IMF and the Paris Club of bilateral creditors — should coordinate their decisions. They must not wait for each other to make the first move," Mr. Clarke

stressed. Proposals at the moment would force a country to wait too long for help and Mr. Clarke urged that rules be less bureaucratic.

"We must be reasonable, especially when we are dealing with countries that are dependent on the world market for one or two agricultural products," he added.

The measure for debt sustainability should be at the lower end of the World Bank range — 20 per cent for the annual debt service to export ratio and 200 per cent for the debt stock to export ratio.

Private capital flows are crucial for developing countries but Mr. Clarke warned them against the temptation to put up barriers against such inflows on the pretext that they would disrupt their economies.

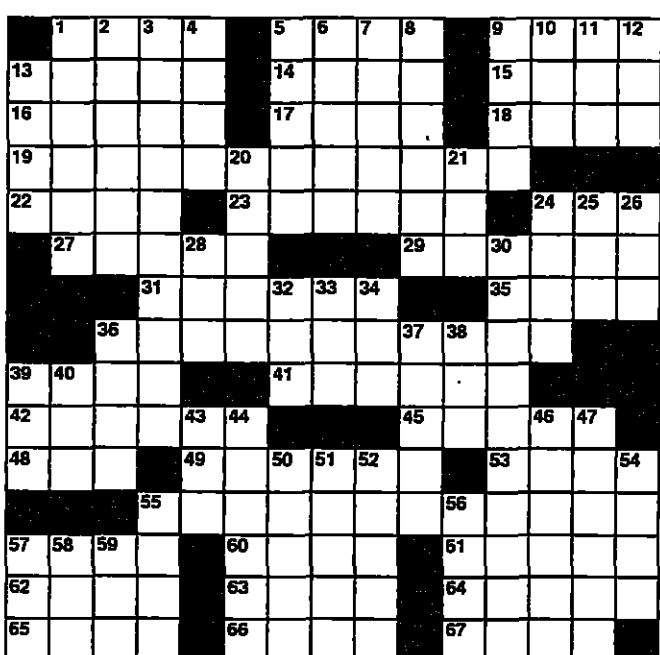
"I am not suggesting that countries should be forced to liberalise immediately...but I believe it is important that we signal the direction in which we want to go," he said.

Mr. Clarke welcomed proposals by the World Trade Organisation (WTO) that developed countries end all tariffs on products from the poorest countries.

THE Daily Crossword by Jay Sullivan

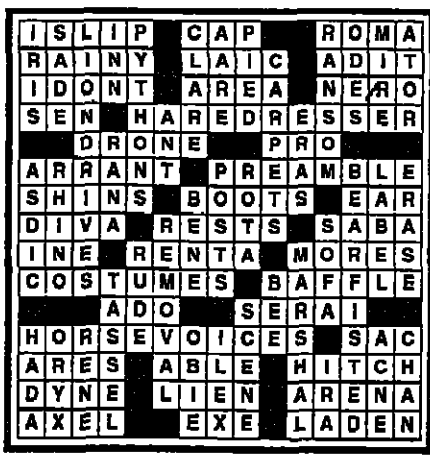
ACROSS

- 1 Luggage
- 5 Prod
- 9 Attend
- 13 Myopic cartoon character
- 14 Fabled loser
- 15 Eye layer
- 16 Personnel
- 17 "Picnic" author
- 18 Long and lean
- 19 Become depraved
- 22 German region
- 23 Did a classroom chore
- 24 Best — and tucker
- 27 Spreadsheet, for one
- 29 South African city
- 31 Clinton's maiden name
- 35 Cupid's counterpart
- 36 Greetings!
- 39 Appearance
- 41 Dickens' "Little —"
- 42 Big Brother's creator
- 45 What a Cockney drops
- 48 Hum bug?
- 49 Reddish brown
- 53 Toast topper
- 55 In hiding
- 57 Woman
- 60 Drowning sound
- 61 In flames
- 62 Scent
- 63 Cork country
- 64 Hindu princesses
- 65 Take-out words
- 66 Studies
- 67 Work units



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- 7 Cravings
- 8 Actor George or Keanu
- 9 Shore bird
- 10 Eggs
- 11 Gymnast's goal
- 12 Durable wood
- 13 Cleric's title: abbr.
- 20 Pays attention
- 21 Bachelor's last words
- 24 "Wozzek" composer
- 25 Lance of legal fame
- 26 Derek and Diddy
- 28 Transmission position
- 30 Exceeded the bounds of propriety
- 32 Holed up
- 33 From — Z
- 34 Office VIP
- 36 Sewing machine inventor
- 37 Chimp cousin



- 38 Shakespeare's "Richard —"
- 39 Tennis shot
- 40 Borax or bauxite
- 43 Southeast Asian
- 44 Thrust (a sword)
- 46 Providing a hint
- 47 Mollusc and Rousseau
- 50 Refute
- 51 Motorist's move
- 52 Royal raiment
- 54 Keats' feats
- 55 Greek hero?
- 56 Steak option
- 57 Fate
- 58 Fuss
- 59 Pull, e.g.

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arington

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

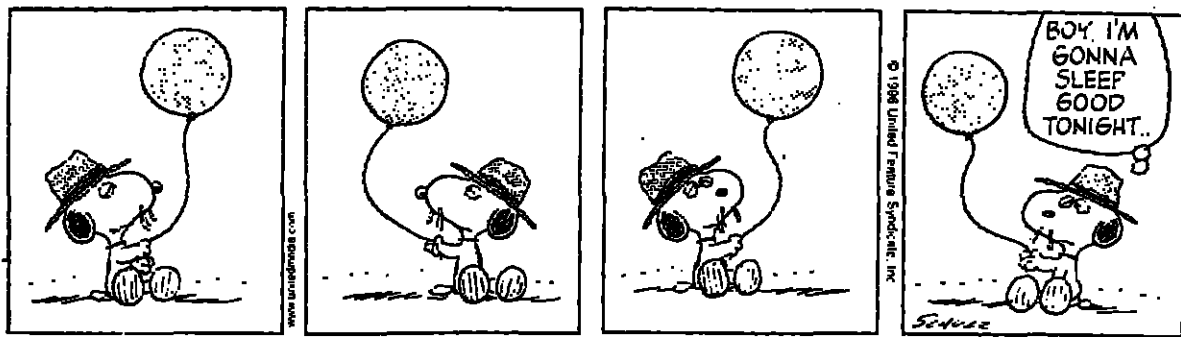
SOBAS
GALUH
LARMIN
RAMAAD

Answer here: _____

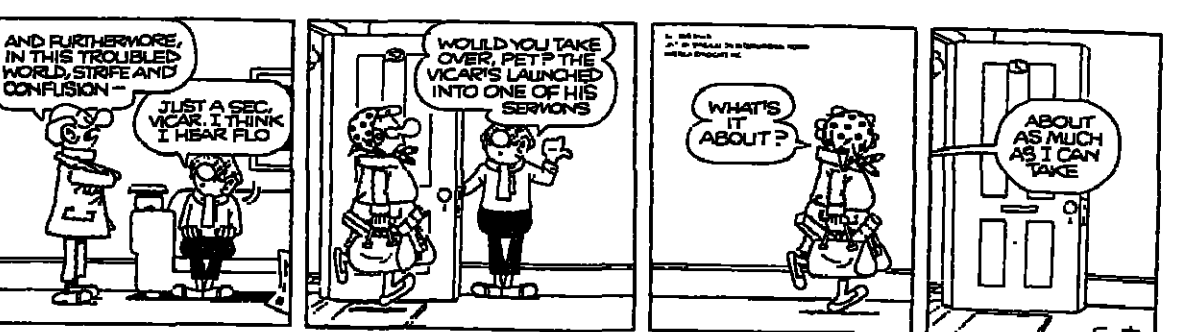
(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: JOINT PRIZE FLAGBY MAROON
Answer: The stock broker turned artist exhibited his — PORTFOLIO

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR FRIDAY OCTOBER 11, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Study your home today and do whatever can improve things there. Invite persons in for the evening and you can have a fun time entertaining those close friends and fellow associates who you do enjoy seeing.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Handle routines wisely today and make whatever effort you will need to gain the success you desire. Pay more compliments to your fellow associates and get them eating out of your hand for the days ahead.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Plan how to rid yourself today of some annoying situation and study better ways of improving financial matters. Later this evening will be good for you to see close friends and have a good time relaxing from business affairs.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Don't let criticisms of fellow associates bother you and go after personal aims and thereby you can gain them. Later this evening will be quite beneficial for you concerning career activities and how you can gain success.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Everything seems to go wrong with your career activities today so turn your attention to some personal matter of importance. This evening can be spent with your loved ones and relax from the hassles of your career activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Contact good friends today you have not seen in some time and don't make plans with your mate in the morning. Later this evening will be good for you to discuss leisure time activities with close friends and follow through.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get in touch today with superiors and gain their support for a new project you are doing. Show off your finest talents to those in authority and thereby you can make a success of your efforts for the days ahead.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't let a message you receive today disturb you from completing your career activities. Plan a trip which can help your business or personal life in the days ahead and then you can become very prosperous.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Leave your mate in a fine humour today and then you can handle business affairs very efficiently. Later this evening will be good for handling any career activities and get them behind you so that you can relax.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Controlling a habit in the morning today will make it possible later to come to a better understanding with fellow associates who are anxious to be of assistance to you. Later this morning rest with your loved ones.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Don't let a private anxiety bother you today and busy yourself with activities which are profitable. Later this evening can be spent with close friends and loved ones doing fun activities which all will enjoy.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A friend may be disappointing this morning, however, be devoted to the one you really love and make romance richer. Later this evening you can spend quality time with your loved ones and show you do appreciate them.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"You have bad handwriting. 'Tofu and bean sprouts' looks like 'beer and pizza'!"

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR THURSDAY OCTOBER 10, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Instead of dashing hither and yon today, plan your activities carefully and handle them conscientiously. Later this evening will be good for consulting with a knowledgeable person for advice about a new project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) You may come to wrong decisions today and get into activities which are not beneficial, so be careful. Later this evening you can go out on the town with your mate and have a wonderful time in each others company.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You may find obstacles in the path of your progress today, however, don't push anything and be diplomatic in your career activities. Later tonight will be good for consulting with those in authority and decide upon a course of action.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Go after the private goals which mean much to you today, however, do so in a quiet way and get good results for the days ahead. Later tonight you can invite close friends over to your home and have a fun time with them.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Concentrate on your friends who can assist you today in some plan you have in mind and make it a reality. Study this matter further this evening and you will make a plan of actions which can make you successful.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Postpone asking favours from influential people today until a better opportunity. Study how to improve your business life later this evening and consult with a bigwig to develop a plan of action which will be successful.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Don't try to get one today with different ideas to your own to cooperate with you in some plan. Later this evening you can meet with knowledgeable people and discuss strategy for you to make a success of your life.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Handle your responsibilities wisely today and be conscientious about them. Don't add any more to them later this evening or you could find yourself over-extended and feeling like you are burned out emotionally.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) A fellow associate has an idea today which is not acceptable to you, however, listen to what this person has to say and you could come to a mutual understanding. You should use tact in making any suggestions to him or her.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Decide that any activities you get into today will be handled wisely and conscientiously. Later this evening you can consult with someone in authority and gain suggestions for making any career activities more successful.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get into less strenuous activities today, be they of a personal, business or recreational nature and you can spend some quality time with your loved ones. Later this evening you can complete a new project with the assistance of fellow associates.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have to be very patient and understanding at your home today and avoid difficulty there, so that harmony exists with your loved ones. Tonight will be a good time to visit with close friends and have fun with them.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline.



Prince Waleed Bin Talal (third from right) signs the agreement. He is flanked by investors Ghassan Mifleh (second from right) and Abdul Qader Al Qadi (fourth from right)

Agreement signed to build Four Seasons Hotel in Amman

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four Seasons, the U.S.-based prestigious hotel chain, is scheduled to open its doors in Amman in the spring of 1999, investors said at a signing ceremony held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday.

Investors include the Arab Jordan Investment Bank, the Arab Jordan Investment Company, Riad Mifleh and Sons Co., and Hisham Qadumi Investment Co.

The project lands in Jordan at a time when the Kingdom's tourism industry is registering a decline with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities and private sector businessmen complaining of a decrease in the number of tourists as well as in the volume of profits.

Tourism Minister Saleh Irsheidat said last week that regional political events such as Israeli attacks in South Lebanon and continuing instability in the Gulf

area have caused a decline in the number of tourists visiting the country.

But officials and tourism industry sources stressed that the decline in the number of tourists is temporary.

They emphasised the large potential for growth in the tourism industry, noting that the country last year received about one million tourists for the first time in its history and international companies are still looking for investment opportunities in this sector.

While some hoteliers say there is a surplus of rooms in the market, others insist that there will be higher demand once the peace

process bears its fruits on the regional level.

"It is like taking a snapshot. Depending on the moment in which you are looking at the situation, you see ups and downs," Ghassan Mifleh, one of the PTIC founding shareholders told the Jordan Times.

"The peace process will bear its fruits sooner or later," said Dr. Mifleh, who added that investment in tourism does not aim for short term profits but is rather geared towards long-term projects.

The present difficulties and the current declining trend of Jordan's tourism industry do not seem to worry investors at PTIC.

"Investment in tourism is a safe undertaking," Dr. Mifleh said.

Foreseeing and faith in the good-old Says law that "supply creates its own demand" seem to be the passwords for Prince Waleed's team.

"We know that we are entering an over-supplied market, but we believe in diversification of services (as an answer to competition)," Samad Zok, executive vice-president for development at Prince Waleed's office, told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Zok, "the high quality services and the customer-oriented philosophy of Four Seasons will ensure the success of the project."

According to a press release, Prince Waleed, who acquired a 25 per cent stake in Four Seasons-Regent Hotels for approximately \$120 million in 1994, "is committed to bolster his hotel investment portfolio through Four Seasons."

His international development team, said the press release, forecasts opening 10 hotels in the Middle East over the next three to five years.

The new Amman Four Seasons Hotel will be located on an eight-dunums piece of land at the Fifth Circle, and the press release forecasts a 16 per cent annual return on the investment.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET											
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 09/10/1996											
LAST 12 MONTHS		COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
PRICE	INDEX				TRADE		JD				
3.800	1.000	BANK OF JORDAN	10.8	0.00	6	47380	142050	3.00	3.00	-	-
1.270	1.270	KID. EAST INV. SK.	88.3	0.00	2	40550	41110	1.05	1.04	-	-
8.250	4.250	THE ROSSING BK.	13.0	2.85	2	205000	270000	4.80	4.85	-	-
3.550	2.600	JOR. INVEST. BANK	18.2	0.00	2	334	884	2.55	2.65	-	-
1.200	1.890	JOR. GULF BANK	5.8	0.00	2	334	7820	2.93	2.92	-	-
4.180	3.300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.8	0.00	6	1200	1440	2.73	2.70	-	-
3.800	3.000	JOR. INV. & BANK	13.1	0.00	2	400	1340	3.35	3.35	-	-
1.090	1.200	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	2	400	13500	1.30	1.30	-	-
2.640	1.000	PELLEGE, INV. SK.	9	0.00	2	400	592	1.35	1.35	-	-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 186.02		CHANGE: -0.08									
1.900	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	12.2	7.41	24	10670	17278	1.61	1.62	-	-
9.250	8.500	JOR. HOTEL TOURISM	18.6	1.88	1	1055	8750	9.00	8.75	-	-
6.580	4.850	ARAB INTL. HOTELS	19.0	2.67	1	1000	4800	4.80	4.80	-	-
3.090	1.080	HAZZ. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	5	2600	3225	1.22	1.20	-	-
2.420	1.710	KID. EAST HOTELS	71.7	0.00	1	200	428	1.71	1.71	-	-
2.680	3.130	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	13.8	5.72	13	4290	2485	3.14	3.14	-	-
2.450	1.700	UNIFIED CO.	9.4	8.59	18	4950	8877	1.82	1.79	-	-
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 112.76		CHANGE: +0.21									
3.770	3.080	JOR. CREDIT FACT.	18.6	3.09	10	5136	16639	3.24	3.24	-	-
9.960	4.730	ARAB POZASH CO.	16.6	3.64	10	3000	11000	5.00	5.00	-	-
10.550	8.720	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.4	8.59	6	390	3528	9.30	9.30	-	-
1.590	1.150	MOOLEN INDUSTRIES	58.9	0.00	2	910	2085	2.08	2.18	-	-
2.750	1.850	INDUSTRIAL. CON. LGR.	29.3	0.00	2	910	2085	2.08	2.18	-	-
8.150	6.420	JOR. WOODP. KILLS	9.0	3.67	4	9247	64724	2.58	2.58	-	-
8.150	3.100	ARAB TRADING. BROS.	13.4	4.36	1	4004	1888	4.71	4.70	-	-
8.000	4.250	DAR ALMAJ. JV. INV.	12.9	8.60	3	6300	20468	3.47	3.49	-	-
5.800	3.130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	8.7	8.60	3	6300	20468	3.47	3.49	-	-
1.950	1.050	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	9	8.49	103	35680	164372	1.63	1.63	-	-
2.100	1.140	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	17.3	0.00	13	7500	10550	1.32	1.32	-	-
1.640	1.050	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	25.3	0.00	11	5484	5095	0.94	0.93	-	-
2.450	1.750	EG. -RAY BENDY WDR	2	0.00	2	4750	8693	1.84	1.83	-	-
1.450	1.050	INTL. TOBACCO	26.8	0.00	11	4450	8013	1.71	1.71	-	-
2.100	1.100	UNION CH. & VEG.	26.4	0.00	2	750	803	1.10	1.07	-	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS											
INDEX: 110.59		CHANGE: -0.07									
GRAND TOTAL		INDEX: 117.22		CHANGE: -0.05							
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 09/10/1996											
#	LAST 12 MONTHS	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
1	950	HAZZ. CORNER. CENTERS	2	0.00	2	300	325	53	51	-	-
2	940	DIJON INV. 502	71.7	0.00	2	42480	10480	1.82	1.82	-	-
3	1.220	ARAB PIN. INVNT.	9	0.00	15	76900	40643	1.82	1.82	-	-
4	1.210	DIJON. METAL	9	0.00	1	250	325	74	70	-	-
5	910	ARAB FOOD & MDO.	2	0.00	2	500	325	1.45	1.45	-	-
6	1.760	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
7	710	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
8	2.060	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
9	1.000	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
10	1.000	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
11	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
12	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
13	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
14	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
15	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
16	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
17	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
18	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
19	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
20	810	HAZZ. CHELONER	2	0.00	9	5784	8213	1.42	1.42	-	-
GRAND TOTAL											
INDEX: 117.22		CHANGE: -0.05									

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The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.5279	0.6393	1.2528	111.46	1.3545	1521.80	1.7145	5.1650	
DE Mark	0.6545		0.4180	0.8196	72.90	0.8863	995.36	1.1217	3.3789
GB Sterling	1.5643	1.5643		1.5593	174.40	2.1188	2379.84	2.8813	8.0775
CH Franc	0.7982	121.92	0.5097		88.95	1.0807	1213.94	135.84	4.1210
JP Yen	0.0080	1.3713	0.5732	1.1240		1.2152	13.64	153.82	4.8341
CA Dollar	0.7383	1.1203	0.4690	0.9178	1.22		1114.12	1.2598	3.7934
IT Lira	0.0007	1.0037	0.4197	0.0823	1387.05	0.8898		11.26	3.3932
NL Guilder	0.5833	89.12	0.3725	75.06	84.94	0.7898	886.71		3.0115
FR Franc	0.1936	0.2956	0.1237	24.2518	21.54	0.2622	33.19	33.1900	

Metal Prices			Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)				
Metal	Bid	Offer	Period	1	3	6	12
Gold (oz's)	381.8	382.3	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
Silver (oz's)	4.85	4.87	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
Platinum (oz's)	386.5	387.5	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
AL (3 Months)	1320	1321	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
CU (3 Months)	1827	1829	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
Zinc (3 Months)	1035	1036	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
Lead (3 Months)	766	767	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59
NI (3 Months)	7120	7130	Month	5.18	5.37	5.50	5.59

Energy			JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Delivery	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/b)	119.58	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (c/b)	9434	Spot	GB Sterling	1.1055	1.111
Sugar (c/b)	0	Spot	DE Mark	0.4628	0.4651
Wheat (c/b)	158	Spot	CH Franc	0.8649	0.8677
Soy (c/b)	22.02	Spot	FR Franc	0.137	0.1377
Tea (c/b)	0	Spot	JP Yen	0.8347	0.8379
Barley (c/b)	2.63	Spot	NL Guilder	0.4123	0.4144
Rice (c/b)	455	Spot	IT Lira	0.465	0.4683

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

Daily Beat

Regional developments slowed Jordan's growth — Marto

** THE RECENT events in the region such as the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as new prime minister in Israel and the consequences that ensued, the Israeli military strike on South Lebanon and the instability in Iraq and the Palestinian territories have all created a climate of suspicion and negatively affected foreign investments, a top Jordanian banker was quoted as telling London's Al Hayat newspaper.

"The cost of these events on the economy has been a retreat between one and two per cent in the gross domestic product," Michel Marto, the deputy governor of the Central Bank was quoted as saying in Al Hayat. He expected Jordan's gross domestic product to grow by slightly over five per cent in 1996, less than what is expected or less than the average six per cent registered in the past few years.

Also less than expected will be the revenue from tourism which, anyhow, is predicted to be more than the \$400 million earned last year, Dr. Marto indicated.

The senior banker anticipated that the Central Bank will be able to achieve its target of \$620 million in foreign currencies or the equivalent of two months imports and noted that the Central Bank may improve the situation. He said the current account deficit will reach three per cent of the gross domestic product which is a better percentage than the 3.8 per cent registered last year.

In another development, Planning Minister Rima Khalaf said that Jordan was able to obtain a \$120 million loan from the World Bank and that the amount will be disbursed in one lump sum. She indicated that the loan will be used to support efforts exerted by the government to improve the competitiveness of the Jordanian economy and to support the reform measures in the financial and commercial sectors.

According to Mohammad Al Aryan, the head of the Middle East section at the International Monetary Fund, "Jordanians have achieved all the transitional objectives until now including the measures related to subsidies."

"All of this had positive results and good indicators in terms of the overall economic situation. The inflation is low, the reserves are rising and the growth is good," Mr. Aryan emphasised (Al Aswaq).

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SCORING A WIN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Wednesday receives a trophy from HRH Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid after the Regent led the Jordanian polo team in a 2-0 winning match against Sudan (photo by Munem Fakhouri)

Double Algerian assault on cup semifinals

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Algerian clubs CR Belouizdad and JS Kabylie make a double assault on Africa's two leading club competitions Friday in the wake of a revival in the North African country's soccer fortunes.

Both teams play at Algiers' July 5th stadium in their respective semifinal first-leg matches, less than a week after the Algerian national team hammered the Ivory Coast 4-1 at the same venue in an African Nations' Cup qualifying tie. In an unprecedented move for African soccer, JS Kabylie will host Nigeria's shooting stars in the first match of the afternoon in the "African Champions' Cup" followed immediately afterwards by Belouizdad's Cup Winners' Cup meeting with Sodigraf of Zaire.

Both Algerian clubs start

as favorites in their games, coming just months after the country's surprise elimination from the World Cup which led to wholesale changes in the Algerian Soccer Federation.

JS Kabylie, who elected not to defend their Cup Winners' Cup title in order to chase a third champions' cup victory, are placing their faith in striker Hakim Medane, recently returned from a five-year career in Portugal.

Medane, 30, returned to Algeria in the off-season after spells with Salgueiros and Famalicão and made an immediate impact with goals in the quarter-final tie against Angola's Petro Atletico last month.

Medane replaces another veteran Algerian international, Djamel Menad, who was JSK's hero in the Cup Winners' Cup last year but

has since joined new champions USM Algiers.

JSK also have a new coach in Brahim Ramdani, formerly with USM Harrach.

Belouizdad were also heavily involved in the off-season transfer market but lost more than they gained with the departure of international defender Mourad Slatni to neighbouring Tunisia and Abderrazek Dahmani to Mouloudia Algiers.

But they should still be too strong for the unfashionable Zairians, who beat Nigerian second division Katsina United 2-0 on aggregate in the previous round.

Tunisia's CS Sfaxien host Egypt's Zamalek in the other champions cup semifinal tie Saturday while another Egyptian team, Arab Contractors, are at

home to Canon Yaounde of Cameroon in the Cup Winners' Cup Friday.

Confederation of African Football (CAF) cup holders Etoile Sahel host Vita Club of Zaire in the continuing defence of their title while the other CAF cup semifinal, first-leg match sees Kawkab Marrakesh hosting Kenya Breweries.

Arab-speaking North African countries, who had their stranglehold on the African club competitions broken last year, are again handily placed to sweep the boards.

They have three champions' cup semifinals and two teams in each of the Cup Winners' Cup and CAF cup final four.

The second legs of all the semifinal ties will be played on the weekend of October 25-27.

Coach Hoddle faces familiar foes in first home match

LONDON (R) — Glenn Hoddle makes his Wembley debut as England coach Wednesday against opponents who return to the stadium that provided the backdrop for one of the most glorious nights in their soccer history.

England meet Poland in a World Cup qualifier that will provide another chapter in their great soccer rivalry.

Hoddle will be hoping his side follow up their opening group two qualifier when they beat Moldova 3-0 with another victory — while Poland will be hoping to avoid defeat — just as they did on Oct. 17 1973.

On that night the heroics of goalkeeper Jan Tomaszewski denied England the victory that would have taken them into the 1974 World Cup finals in West Germany. Instead the famous 1-1 draw so Poland qualify instead.

Since then the two sides have clashed in the finals of the 1986 World Cup and the qualifying rounds of the 1990 and 1994 World Cups as well as the qualifying tournament for the 1992 European championship. Poland have failed to win any of those games or beat England in eight matches dating back to 1973 when they won 2-0 in Chorow.

Hoddle's men, on a high after their performances at the European championship in June, start as favorites for Wednesday's match, a 76,000 sell-out.

Hoddle has no injury worries, and his only serious selection problems lie in attack.

Newcastle's £15 million (\$23.4 million) forward Alan Shearer is certain to start following his spectacular showing in the European championship,

when he scored five outfield goals for England in as many games.

But his striking partner in June, Teddy Sheringham, is being pushed hard for his place by Shearer's Newcastle team mate Les Ferdinand, who who flourished at St James' Park since Shearer arrived in the summer.

"If I've managed to take some of the pressure off less than all well and good," Shearer told reporters Monday. "He looks very relaxed and he's scoring goals."

Steve McManaman, left out of the England side that beat Moldova 3-0 in their first World Cup qualifier last month, is the other player pushing for a recall.

Hoddle goes into the match with half an eye on Italy. England's main rivals in Group Two.

Like England, the Italians beat Moldova in their first match but, encouragingly for Hoddle, the World Cup finalists conceded a goal and appeared to struggle for a while.

Poland have slipped back in world soccer since the heady days of the 1970s and 1980s when they reached two World Cup semifinals. They failed to qualify for the 1994 world cup in the United States or this summer's European championship, and have also had three coaches this year.

The present coach Antoni Piechniczek was in charge when they reached the last four of the 1982 World Cup in Spain, but his current team is in a period of transition, although no-one in the England camp, mindful of 1973, will be taking them for granted.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Own goal gives Uruguay win over Bolivia

MONTEVIDEO — Uruguay scored a crucial World Cup qualifying win over Bolivia, the team that denied them a trip to the 1994 finals, thanks to an own goal by defender Juan Manuel Pena Tuesday. The Bolivian defender inadvertently headed the ball into his own net in the 62nd minute of a nerve-wracking encounter as he attempted to clear a Uruguayan cross.

Bosnia lose to Croatia; sport is the winner

BOLOGNA, Italy — A cavernously empty stadium and driving rain provided the backdrop for one of the most emotionally charged matches in World Cup soccer history Tuesday as Bosnia made their "home" debut against Croatia. Bosnia lost 4-1 but soccer was the clear winner as both teams played sportingly and rival fans joined in fair play.

Villeneuve closes in on glory

LONDON — Jacques Villeneuve will make motor racing history Sunday if he wins the Japanese Grand Prix to become the first man to lift the IndyCar and Formula One world drivers' titles in successive seasons. The 25-year-old Canadian will also be one of the youngest champions and the first to claim the drivers' crown in his rookie year.

Price seeks Dunhill Cup revenge

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland — Nick Price wants to recover from a string of setbacks by helping Zimbabwe to a first victory in the Alfred Dunhill Cup this week. Price and team mates Mark McNulty and Tony Johnstone may receive an early chance to avenge defeat by Scotland in last year's final if they emerge in the same section in Wednesday's round-robin group draw.

Griffey wins 7th straight Award

NEW YORK — Centre fielder Ken Griffey Junior of Seattle won his seventh successive American league Gold Glove Award, and Orioles second baseman Roberto Alomar claimed his sixth award for fielding excellence Tuesday. Joining Griffey in the outfield elite cited by Rawlings sporting goods was his mariners teammate, right fielder Jay Buhner, who won his first Gold Glove.

Cards hope for full deck against Braves

ATLANTA — The Cards will be playing with a full deck against the daunting dealers of the Braves pitching staff with the news that Ray Lankford will be in the lineup for Wednesday's opener of their league championship series. Lankford, who two weeks ago tore the rotator cuff in his throwing shoulder, will start in centre field for the St. Louis Cardinals who take on the world series champion Atlanta Braves in a best-of-seven series for the national league title.

NFL trade deadline passes

ATLANTA — The NFL trading deadline came and went Tuesday, leaving quarterback Jeff George still a disgruntled, suspended member of the Atlanta Falcons. Both the Falcons and the Seattle Seahawks — where George was rumoured to be headed in a trade for quarterback Rick Mirer — announced shortly after the afternoon deadline that no deal had been reached.

Smyth gets hat-trick as Oilers beat Leafs

TORONTO — Ryan Smyth recorded his first career hat-trick, including the tie-breaking goal with 2:14 remaining, to lift the Edmonton Oilers to their third straight win, 4-2 over the Toronto Maple Leafs Tuesday. "It's a big time, scoring three goals in the NHL," Smyth said. "It's a great feeling."

Messier, Debrusk suspended

NEW YORK — The National Hockey League, less than a week into its season, levied its second and third suspensions Tuesday, hitting Rangers Star Centre Mark Messier and Oilers Winger Louie Debrusk for separate incidents. Messier was suspended for two games without pay and fined the maximum \$1,000 for slamming Florida Panthers left wing Mike Hough from behind Sunday. Debrusk was suspended for at least one game for a slashing incident Sunday against Vancouver Canucks defenceman Dana Murzyn.

Former cyclist fighting cancer

AUSTIN, Texas — Former World Champion rider Lance Armstrong is fighting cancer. Armstrong, who won the 1993 world road race title when he was 21, faces at least nine weeks of chemotherapy for testicular cancer that has spread to his abdomen and lungs.



Stuart McCall (left) and Scot Gemmill (right) of the Scottish National team leave Kadriorg Stadium on their way to the airport in Tallin. Their opponents in Group 4 World Cup qualifying match from Estonia did not show up for the kick off, which was rescheduled due to a disagreement over stadium lighting (Reuters photo)

Scots awarded World Cup qualifier victory

TALLINN (R) — Scotland were awarded a 3-0 victory in their scheduled World Cup European Group Four qualifier after their Estonian opponents failed to turn up for the match after it was rescheduled.

Estonian Football Federation Secretary-General Ainar Lettonen told Estonian Radio the game was awarded to the Scots.

FIFA had ordered the game to start at an earlier

1200 GMT time after the Scots complained about the floodlighting but the Estonians wanted it played at the scheduled 1545 GMT.

Scotland went on to the pitch at the new start time and kicked off, playing towards an undefended goal. After three seconds the referee brought the farce to a halt and the players returned to the dressing rooms.

About 700 Scotland fans were in the stadium at the time but the home fans had stayed away.

"According to FIFA rules we can be fined \$50,000 or even excluded from FIFA but I do not think this will happen," Lettonen said.

Scotland coach Craig Brown had wanted to start the match earlier because he said the floodlighting was the worst he had seen for an international match.

Young lions battling it out at Ascot

PARIS (R) — It's not easy to upstage Frankie Dettori but watch this space.

It may be hard to believe but, within a week or so of Dettori riding all seven winners at Ascot, the spotlight has moved on to another young lion.

Enter, on the longchamp stage, Olivier Peslier, like Dettori young and ambitious, — and riding out of his skin.

Peslier, French champion jockey apparent, and his partner Helissio

turned in the performance of their lives thus far to win Sunday's Prix De L'arc De Triomphe.

It was an astonishing piece of theatre which immediately invited comparisons with the great triumphs of Ribot in 1956 and Sea Bird nine years later.

That August Pair won by six lengths but Helissio could have stretched seven or eight lengths clear had Peslier chosen not to rise out of the saddle to accept the

plaudits.

"Because I could not bear anyone behind me, I kept looking behind me," he recalled. "I had also lost my cap and I thought maybe they were letting me win or there had been a false start."

But there was no mistake as Helissio left a highly talented field, including four classic winners, struggling in his slipstream.

The next act for Helissio has still to be determined — Japan may

beckon — but for Peslier it is clear: the French jockeys' title and an ever-increasing worldwide presence.

Even before Sunday he possessed, at 23, an impressive international portfolio with victories in the Irish derby, Royal Ascot's coronation stakes, Italy's gran criterium and a group two race in Japan.

It adds up to a hectic lifestyle which on one recent weekend took him in four days from France to England, back to

France then on to Ireland before returning to Longchamp to ride Helissio in his arc preparatory race.

Victory in Sunday's event was all the sweeter for Peslier since it helped erase the disappointment of 12 months earlier when, partnering Freedom Cry, he finished a close up second to Dettori on Lammtarra.

This year, while Helissio sprinted away, Dettori, on classic cliché, trailed in last, his partner

racing over a distance short of his best.

But Dettori will be back. Both men have an exuberance about them which has caught the imagination.

While Peslier has still to copy Dettori's flying dismount, he is an engaging character who, for releasing energy, indulges in paintballing, a mock fight in which participants in combat gear use paint as ammunition.

Dettori's feat at Ascot lifted him from star to superstar status. No jock-

ey has ever won seven races in succession at one meeting and to do it at such a highly competitive meeting bordered on the miraculous.

It was in fact a 25,000-1 miracle which still has bookmakers licking their wounds.

But the young Italian is not one to let the turf grow under his feet. He landed a group one victory at Newmarket last week and then Saturday's Longchamp Card won both the group two races

for trainer John Gosden and owner Sheikh Mohammed.

It would have been a treble but for Moonax, a difficult customer, throwing away his chance in the group one Prix Du Cadran with a violent serve in the last 300 metres.

Moonax is likely to be back at Longchamp for the French St. Leger, the last classic of the season.

Dettori will be looking for compensation but watch out for that man Peslier.

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Bonetat reaches semifinal

DOHA (R) — Frenchman Julien Bonetat beat England Number Eight seed Mark Chaloner 15-13 15-10 15-4 Tuesday to book a semifinal against world champion Jansher Khan in the Qatar International Squash Tournament.

Jansher defeated England number seven seed Simon Parke 12-15 15-9 15-8 15-12 in his quarter-final.

Bonetat, semifinalist in 1992, insisted he would not be overawed by his opponent. "He's been struggling this week. He's not a machine, he is only human."

Australian Number Two seed Rodney Eyles won a marathon match 15-14 15-9 13-15 8-15 15-13 against England's Number Six seed Del Harris and will meet another Englishman, Chris Walker in the other semifinal.

Walker eliminated Eyles's compatriot Brett Martin, Number Three seed, 15-11 15-13 13-15 15-11.

Leading money winners on women's professional tennis tour

1. Steffi Graf (Germany) \$2,127,206
2. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario (Spain) 1,434,444
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7. Martina Hingis (Switzerland) 558,826
8. Iva Majoli (Croatia) 529,535
9. Anke Huber (Germany) 455,565
10. Mary Joe Fernandez (U.S.) 409,456
11. Kimiko Date (Japan) 384,181
12. Helena Sukova (Czech Republic) 368,001
13. Meredith McGrath (U.S.) 361,718
14. Larisa Neiland (Latvia) 347,823
15. Gigi Fernandez (U.S.) 343,144
16. Irina Spilreia (Romania) 342,259
17. Chanda Rubin (U.S.) 323,339
18. Natasha Zvereva (Belarus) 319,170
19. Karina Habsudova (Slovakia) 301,337

Stevens to manage Schalke

BONN (R) — German first division side Schalke, trainerless since Joerg Berger was sacked last week after a players' revolt, have signed Dutchman Huub Stevens as their new coach, the club said. Ironically Stevens, a former international defender and Eindhoven youth coach, is moving from Dutch club Roda JC Kerkrade, whom Schalke put out in the first round of the UEFA cup last month. The 42-year-old signed a contract until June 1998 and will join fellow Dutchmen Yuri Mulder and Johan de Kock, a defender who moved from Kerkrade in the close season and recommended Stevens to Schalke's business manager Rudi Assauer. "Stevens has done a great job in Kerkrade and taken a team of 'no-name' players into 'Europe,'" Assauer said Tuesday. Berger's dismissal came as a shock to the fans of the Gelsenkirchen club, the most vociferous in the league.



Ahmad Al Dawood, a participant in the Friday National Rally, speeds up in his Renault 5 in a previous event

National Rally kicks off Friday

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Ahmad Al Dawood, Bashar Bustami and several other well-known Jordanian drivers will compete Friday in one of Jordan's most prestigious rallies — the Palace Lights National Rally.

The rally, which will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal, is the third national rally and the fourth event organised by the Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ).

The one-day event will have several stages, starting from the RACJ, passing through Iraq Al Amir and Adasieh Road, to reach the Jordan Valley area and back to base.

Final list of participants:

Driver
Ahmad Al Dawood
Bashar Bustami
Ma'rouf Abu Samra
Mohammad Al Dawood
Faris Bustami
Asem Aref
Tamer Tabba
Toni Khoulasy
Ra'ed Haddad
Zeid Talhami
Basgar Yasin
Bishara Quzo'ur

Car
Ford Escort Cosworth 4x4
Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
Ford Sierra Cosworth 4x4
Ford Escort Cosworth 4x4
Toyota Celica GT4
Volvo 240
Aleo
Ford Fiesta Xr 2i
Ford Fiesta Xr 2i
Peugeot 205 Gti
Ford Fiesta Xr 2i
Peugeot 205 Gti

Prizes will be distributed to the winners in a special ceremony at RACJ Saturday.

Bugs Bunny, Jordan team up in 'Space Jam'

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Wise-cracking Bugs Bunny and sports icon Michael Jordan are costarring in "Space Jam," a combined live-action and animation film that promises to sell vastly more merchandise than tickets.

The movie cost around \$80 million to make and while Warner Brothers is not predicting how well it will do at the box office its marketing division expects to sell a staggering \$1 billion in merchandise.

Still, Warner's head of worldwide advertising Bob Friedman began an interview by declaring even before the first question that "the movie is not a merchandise vehicle... We would never do that to Bugs Bunny. He's the crown jewel for Warner Brothers." And he scoffed at the suggestion that the movie — hitting theaters Nov. 15 — was inspired by a highly successful Nike "Hareospace Jordan" television commercial which paired the two.

The carrot-chomping ("What's Up Doc?") rabbit with an acid tongue who usually outwits his opponents was a perfect match for Jordan, said Friedman. "Neither of them is cuddly and both have an edge to them."

The public should be prepared for an onslaught of Jordan, Bugsy, Wile E. Coyote, Porky Pig and other Warner Looney Tunes cartoon characters in the form of dolls, books, sports accessories, housewares and trinkets.

In its first joint venture with a fast food chain, Warner Brothers teamed up with McDonald's to offer "happy meals" with movie characters that do tricks as well as plush dolls.

The studio, unwilling to leave the cartoon character merchandising to Disney unchallenged, will launch its own WB toys unit and open 150 store outlets worldwide to sell the merchandise.

The marketing is not directed only at children, either. "Baby boomers" between the ages of 34 and

50, who remember the cartoon figures from their childhood, are also expected to buy the merchandise.

Test runs in northern California have turned up wildly enthusiastic reviews, Friedman said.

"Space Jam is aimed at everyone," Friedman said. "It plays fantastic to little kids, teens and their parents. This is not normally the crowds you find in the same theater together."

While Bugsy would never admit to stage fright, Jordan did in a recent television interview.

"I thought playing myself would be very simple... But that's the hardest thing to play."

The movie, created by 15 teams of animators, will include more combinations of live action two-dimensional animation and high-

end three-dimensional computer graphics than any film in history.

The hybrid was made possible by cutting-edge digital compositing and camera tracking technologies that Friedman said are "100 times better" than those used in the ground-breaking film "Roger Rabbit."

To make the movie, Jordan essentially was required to talk to thin air — Bugsy's mug was later superimposed on the film. To help Jordan, the studios provided guys in green suits who talked like Daffy and Bugsy.

In order for Jordan to demonstrate his physical prowess on the screen, National Basketball Association players were recruited to challenge him in some scenes.

America plays Brazil in 1st round of Davis Cup

LONDON (AP) — The United States will play at Brazil in the first round of next year's Davis Cup, the first time they will have played each other in the annual competition in 31 years.

In the other seven first-round match-ups from Tuesday's Davis Cup draw: The Netherlands plays in Romania, France plays in Australia, India plays in the Czech Republic, Mexico in Italy, Germany in Spain, Russia plays in South Africa, and Switzerland plays in Sweden.

Of the eight Feb. 7-9 first-round world group ties, the toughest draw appears to be Germany at Spain, where Spain is sure to have the tie played on red clay — its speciality. Germany leads

the series 9-3. The Brazil-United States tie should be lively.

Last month, Austrian Thomas Muster walked off the court in a Davis Cup tie in Sao Paulo, alleging he felt his life was being put at risk by some zealous, cursing Brazilian fans.

But the Davis Cup committee ruled Monday that Muster's walkout was unjustified and termed security at the tie "very good."

Austria defaulted the match 4-1 to move the Latin Americans into the prestigious Davis Cup world group.

The United States holds a 2-1 edge on Brazil in Davis Cup play, although Brazil won the last time they played in 1966.

The only new match-up in the world group is Mexico at Italy, two teams that have never faced each other in the Davis Cup.

The second-round of the world group is April 4-6, where the Americans would face either the Dutch or Romanians. In the other pairings, the France-Australia winner faces either the Czechs or India, Mexico or Italy will play the Spain Germany winner, and the winner of Russia-South Africa will play either Sweden or Switzerland.

The semifinals are Sept. 19-21 with the final Nov. 28-30.

In this year's final, France plays at Sweden Nov. 29-Dec. 1 in Malmur, Sweden.

Martin wins squash event

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — World No.1 Michelle Martin of Australia scored an easy victory over Angelique Parks of South Africa in the opening match of the 11th perrier Women's World Open Squash Championship here Tuesday night.

Martin took less than an hour to win 9-3, 9-3 and 9-0. She will meet Sabine Baum of Germany in the second round Wednesday. Baum, who is ranked 13th in the world, won her first round defeating Kate Major of Australia 6-9, 9-2, 9-7 and 9-1.

World No.2 Sarah Fitzgerald of Australia also won, beating Malaysia's Chow Chooi Yeen 9-0, 9-2, 9-0. World No.3 Suzanne Horner of England easily overcame her opponent Misha Jehangir of India 9-5, 9-3, 9-3, while teammate Cassie Jackman, the World No. 4, beat Janine Hickey of Australia 9-3, 9-2, 9-5.

World No.5, Liz Irving of Australia also made it to the second round with a 9-1, 9-6, 9-0 win over Malaysia's Kuan Choy Lin. Meeghan Bell of Australia defeated Cheryl David of Malaysia 9-1, 9-3, 9-0.

Sarah Cook of New Zealand defeated Malaysian Carrie Yeo 9-5, 9-2, 9-0, while World No.7 Sue Wright of England defeated Leong Siu Lynn of Malaysia 9-4, 9-0, 9-4.

A total of players from 14 nations are participating in the \$65,000 championship which ends on Oct. 19.

Muster unhappy with ITF decision

VIENNA (R) — World number three Thomas Muster said Tuesday he was deeply disappointed the International Tennis Federation (ITF) had voted against a replay of last month's Davis Cup tie against Brazil at a neutral venue.

Instead, the Austrian Davis Cup team were ordered to forfeit \$59,000 in prize money for failing to complete the matches in Sao Paulo. The ITF Monday also confirmed on-site fines totalling \$8,000 for Muster.

"The ITF demonstrated its refusal to be flexible," Muster told the Austrian news agency APA. "Although we presented our case clearly they chose to trust their own delegates blindly instead."

Muster walked out of the doubles tie last month claiming the Brazilian crowd had continuously

insulted him and doubles partner Udo Plumberger and spat and threw small stones on to the court.

The Austrian team also pulled out of the reverse singles, forfeiting the matches and handing Brazil a 4-1 victory.

Austrian Tennis Federation Vice-President Christian Ransmayer said a decision on whether Austria would take the case to a civil court would be made Friday.

Muster's coach and Davis Cup non-playing Captain Ronald Leitzig also expressed his anger with the decision.

"The ITF is protecting itself and not its players. They are encouraging exaggerated nationalism," he said. "It was also an incredible vote of no confidence against Thomas and it ruins his reputation."

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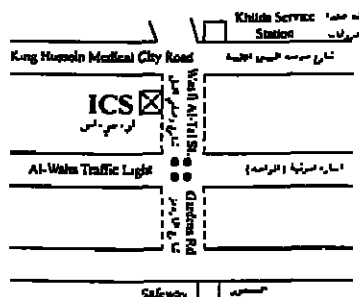
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Palestinian anger can blow up again into intifada — Arafat

Palestinian president reveals he turned down U.S.-offered Israeli document in Washington

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat warned Wednesday that anger over the stalled peace process can boil over at any time and spark more deadly clashes unless Israel implements the autonomy accord.

"Those who think Arafat can prevent the intifada of the Palestinian people are making a serious mistake," the Palestinian leader told the Egyptian weekly Al-Mussawwar.

"They are ignoring the fact that the people are disappointed, they feel humiliated and unjustly treated," Mr. Arafat said.

The Palestinian leader said he was "not optimistic over the negotiations" with Israel brokered by the United States taking place since Sunday at the Beit Hanoun crossing between the Jewish state and Gaza Strip.

"I'm not sure these negotiations will lead to anything. The Israeli side wants negotiations for the sake of negotiations, whereas the situation could explode at any time," he warned.

Mr. Arafat said that at the Washington peace summit last week he put the emphasis on a halt to vio-

lence, after clashes in late September in which 68 Palestinians and 15 Israeli soldiers were killed.

But Israel must implement the signed autonomy accord, halt the expansion of Jewish settlements, maintain the status quo in Jerusalem and halt collective punishment such as the blockade of Palestinian towns, he said.

Mr. Arafat warned that the Palestinians would not make any new concessions in the Beit Hanoun talks, even at the risk of bringing down the peace process.

"I say clearly that we will not accept a change to a single word of the Oslo (autonomy) accord, even if the price is the failure of the peace project," Mr. Arafat warned.

"We have nothing more to give and I don't think anyone can ask us to make more concessions," he said. "If we had been able to, we would have done so at the Washington summit."

Mr. Arafat said he had rejected a joint declaration in Washington that was drawn up by Israel "but presented by the Americans."

It called for an inquiry against the

Palestinian policemen who opened fire at Israeli troops last month and a review of security arrangements drawn up in the autonomy accord.

The paper also suggested reconsidering the security arrangements in Hebron and setting up a committee to discuss an archaeological tunnel in Jerusalem whose opening triggered the clashes.

"The Palestinian and Israeli sides were asked to sign this joint communiqué which destroys the Oslo agreements," Mr. Arafat said.

"I told the Americans I would immediately leave Washington if this paper is not withdrawn ... and they withdrew it."

The Oct. 1-2 summit gave Israel an "escape route," while the Palestinians gained "the sympathy of the U.S. administration and strong backing from Europe, whose support is growing more and more solid," Mr. Arafat said.

He said French President Jacques Chirac had "promised to exert pressure on Washington to advance the American position."

Betselem: Israeli forces use excessive force in Al Aqsa Mosque killings

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — An Israeli human rights group on Wednesday called on Israeli police to investigate policemen who fired with live ammunition at Al Aqsa Mosque last month during clashes which left four Palestinians dead.

"There was clearly a use of excessive force by the Israeli police, who used live ammunition although their lives were not in danger," deputy director general of Betselem, Eitan Felner, told journalists.

In the Sept. 27 shooting, police opened fire on several hundred Palestinians leaving Al Aqsa Mosque, Islam's third holiest site, following weekly Friday prayers after youths threw stones at police.

Mr. Felner said a Betselem report on the shooting showed that at least two of the 103 injured and "most likely" two of those killed had been shot by live ammunition, despite police claims that only rubber bullets were used.

Mr. Felner showed bullet fragments taken from one of the injured along with a ballistic report stating the shards were "certainly from a live bullet."

"These fragments have barrel

markings which police could use in forensic tests to show which policeman fired live ammunition," Mr. Felner said, calling for "the investigation of police who used live bullets on Al Aqsa."

Two of the killed — one who died from a shot through the brain, another from a shot through the chest — showed wounds which "there is a high likelihood" were caused by live ammunition, the report said.

A third died from a rubber bullet shot to the head from close range, the report said. Many of the injuries suggested police shot rubber bullets at the head or chest from close range, in violation of police rules, it said.

The group also reported that police shot Palestinians while still praying and attacked worshippers with clubs as they exited from the mosque.

Eight policemen were lightly injured in the clash and one moderately, according to the report.

The shooting took place on the third day of a wave of unprecedented clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian police and protesters across the territories.

Syria calls for 'direct' EU role in peace talks

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syria called Wednesday for the European Union (EU) to play a direct role in the Middle East, complementary to that of the United States, to help create a just peace based on international law.

"The United States, sponsor of the peace process, must be responsible at a time when the region is under threat and Europe should participate directly in the process," Prime Minister Mahmoud al-Zoubi said in statements published by the press.

Mr. Zoubi said the Likud-led government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "violated commitments" by the previous Labour administration and "revived traditional Zionist rhetoric in favour of expansion, settlement and occupation of Arab land."

The official Al-Tawra newspaper said European and Russian roles in the region are urgently needed and "indispensable" for assisting that of Washington, which launched the peace process together with Moscow in 1991.

"There is a genuine European desire to make the

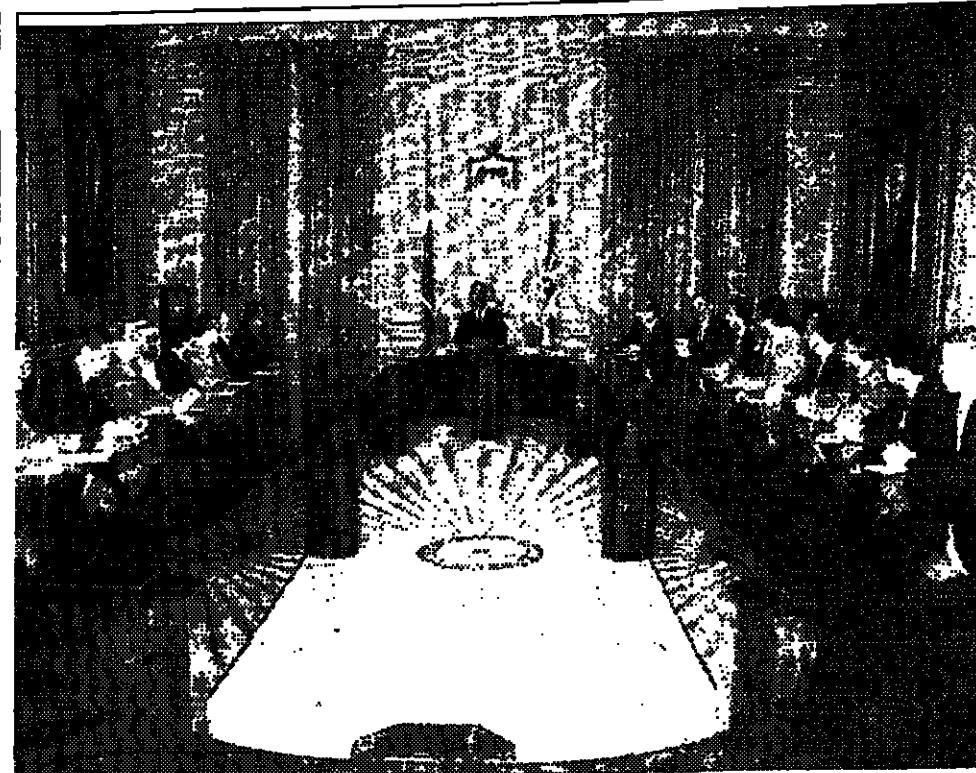
process succeed to establish a just and honourable peace based on international law, which would protect the interests of all the parties," the newspaper said.

The EU sent Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, whose country currently holds the presidency of the European body, to the region on Saturday to stress the EU's desire "to work in partnership with the United States" because they both "have a constructive role to play" in the Middle East.

On Monday, the government newspaper Tishrin said, "Syria and the Arabs have always welcomed the efforts of Europe and have since the Madrid peace conference (in 1991) tried to have Europe adopt a more effective role."

The United States and Israel reject the concept of an active role for the Europeans in the Arab-Israeli negotiations.

According to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the EU should stick to its role as the major financial donor to the Palestinian National Authority.



REGENT MEETS PUBLISHERS: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Wednesday meets the president and members of the Arab Federation of Publishers (see page one) (Photo by Boghos)

Rabbani calls for ceasefire and talks among all Afghan factions

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (Agencies) — Saying the new Taliban rulers in Kabul have their sights set on Central Asia, Afghanistan's deposed President Burhanuddin Rabbani on Wednesday called for a ceasefire and a meeting of all the warring factions.

"We want a council of all the leaders to meet. We are trying to find a way to solve the conflict peacefully," Mr. Rabbani told reporters gathered in Koodabarg, about 15 kilometres south of Mazar-e-Sharif.

"We have not discussed the military option," he said following a lengthy meeting with Uzbek warlord Rashid Dostum.

Mr. Rabbani arrived Tuesday at General Dostum's northern stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif. It was his first appearance since fleeing the capital of Kabul ahead of invading Taliban soldiers on Sept. 27.

The Taliban, who control roughly two-thirds of Afghanistan, have been trying since their arrival in Kabul to flush out former government soldiers holed up in the Panjsher Valley, about 150 kilometres north of the capital.

Gen. Dostum, who commands the only other fighting force in Afghanistan, has control over seven northern provinces.

His soldiers also control the strategic Salang Highway, the only road link between Kabul and northern Afghanistan.

Gen. Dostum's army is well-disciplined and well-armed. Many of his soldiers were conscripts in the former communist government, backed for 14 years by Moscow. His fleet of aircraft, includes several Russian fighter jets and hind helicopter gunships.

While Mr. Rabbani told reporters the proposed all-party council could be held anywhere in Afghanistan, a spokesman for Gen. Dostum in Pakistan said the Uzbek leader wants it convened in Mazar-e-Sharif.

"We are requesting all the leaders to personally come to Mazar-e-Sharif to sit together and solve the Afghan problem," said Gen. Piandah, who like many Afghans uses only one name.

"We are in touch with the Taliban, but so far they have not replied to our invitation," he said.

A representative of the Shi'ite Hezb-e-Wahdat group, headed by Abdul Ali Mazari, was also in Mazar-e-Sharif for meetings with Gen. Dostum, reports said.

Mullah Mohammad Omar, the leader of the Taliban movement is a bit of a recluse, who rarely leaves his headquarters in southern Kandahar or meets anyone.

Gen. Piandah also denied reports that Gen. Dostum's soldiers were fighting alongside former government troops.

"We have not been fighting, but we are capable of defending ourselves," he said.

Witnesses who tried to reach the mouth of the Panjsher Valley on Wednesday were turned back at a Taliban check post.

They were told the fighting was heavy at the front line.

Since overrunning Kabul, the Taliban has moved quickly to establish strict Islamic rule, sending women home from work, closing girls schools, forcing men to attend the mosque, grow beards and wear a skullcap or turban. The Salang Highway was

closed for much of Tuesday because of heavy fighting in which residents reported "very heavy" Taliban casualties.

"I counted over 30 jeeps carrying about 150 dead bodies and wounded Taliban arriving in Jabul Seraj," said one resident.

Residents said they saw 12 tanks and armoured vehicles heading for the tunnel Wednesday.

"We think two Dostum tanks were involved in (Tuesday's) fighting," Mullah Khairullah Haqqani a Taliban commander, said.

In Kabul, Iran's top diplomat was summoned to the Foreign Ministry to hear a protest at accusations by the Iranian spiritual leader that the militia was giving Islam a bad name, officials said.

Iranian Charge d'Affaires Naser Regi was called to the ministry late Tuesday and asked to provide the full text of a speech by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

Ayatollah Khamenei on Monday said "the world does not accept what the Taliban are doing in the name of Islam."

"We don't even know how much they know about Islam," he told a gathering of religious scholars in Tehran. He also accused the United States of supporting the militia.

The Iranian charge d'affaires was asked that "such statements should not be repeated," a Foreign Ministry official said.

However, the Iranian authorities remained unrepentant. Deputy Foreign Minister Alaeddin Boroujerdi said Ayatollah Khamenei's comments about Taliban actions in Afghanistan "in the name of Islam" were "the words of the whole Islamic World and all Muslims."

Erbakan faces tough bruising in censure motion over Libya fiasco

Turkish premier unfazed, described visit to Libya as victorious; Islamist-led coalition unlikely to be toppled in confidence vote

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan faces an opposition challenge to his rule next week for a fiasco in Libya that analysts predicted on Wednesday would tarnish but not topple the Islamist-led coalition.

The left wing has called for a censure motion against Mr. Erbakan for leaving Turkey open to scathing attacks from both his hosts and Ankara's close ally Washington after a trip to Libya at the weekend.

"The assembly is likely to meet next week to discuss the motion," a parliament official told Reuters. Members of Parliament (MPs) will probably debate the visit next Tuesday and decide on the same day whether to hold a vote of censure against Mr. Erbakan later, he said.

The prime minister has been hammered in Turkey for allowing Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi to openly encourage Kurdish separatism in Turkey at a joint news conference with Mr. Erbakan.

The United States has turned on Mr. Erbakan for backing Colonel Qadhafi

over charges of sponsoring terrorism against the West.

Mr. Erbakan would have to resign after little more than three months as modern Turkey's first Islamist leader if he lost the vote. He has 281 MPs, five more than the number needed to guarantee victory in the censure vote.

MPs in his pro-Western True Path Party coalition ally are uneasy with the Libya visit, part of Mr. Erbakan's bid to take Muslim but secular Turkey closer to the Islamic and Arab World.

But analysts said the dissenters in the government would probably prop up Mr. Erbakan, if only for the lack of someone to immediately replace him. Turkey's secularist politicians are split into half a dozen feuding groups.

"Toppling the government before finding an alternative would only open the door to new problems," columnist Derya Sazak wrote in the Milliyet daily.

However, Mr. Erbakan is in for a rough ride at next week's debate. "Erbakan will have to give an account in parliament for

the scandal," he wrote. "The people are waiting ... to hear Erbakan explain how he sunk so low in front of Qadhafi."

Col. Qadhafi called for the establishment of a Kurdish state, presumably on Turkish soil, as Mr. Erbakan sat in awkward silence near the Libyan leader in a bedouin tent in the city of Sirte.

Mr. Erbakan was defiant after arriving in Turkey early on Wednesday. "We have returned like victorious Roman commanders," Anatolian news agency quoted him as saying at Ankara airport.

He said he had later explained to Col. Qadhafi Turkey's need to combat separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) rebels.

Despite the row, Tripoli agreed to pay part of \$365 million in outstanding debts to Turkish contractors who had worked on infrastructure projects in Libya, Anatolian reported.

Mr. Erbakan had angered Washington, which regards Libya as a rogue state, by saying in Sirte that Libya was "against terrorist activities" and was "the country

suffering most from terror."

The State Department accused him on Monday of "taking pot shots" at America with "objectionable remarks" in Libya. It was the second U.S. rebuke in two days for Mr. Erbakan.

On Tuesday, Mr. Erbakan defended his controversial trip to Libya, pointing to what he called anti-Turkish moves by Western countries. "Hasn't the United States, by providing airwaves to the (Kurdish rebels) MED-TV, given the (rebel leader) the chance to broadcast his anti-Turkish views?" Mr. Erbakan said at a news conference.

"Have those who are criticising us now ever said we should sever ties with the United States?"

"Mr. Qadhafi has said things that can upset us, but cutting ties with Libya is not the way to go," Mr. Erbakan said. "We've explained to him our views and he has understood our concerns about terrorism."

Ankara rejects Washington's 'intervention' in foreign policy

ANKARA (AP) — Turkey, responding to U.S. criticism over its ties with Libya, said Wednesday it valued its alliance with the United States but would not accept U.S. interference in its foreign policy.

"Turkey alone determines how to run its foreign policy," Foreign Ministry spokesman Sermet Atacanli told reporters.

Washington urged Turkey on Tuesday to join efforts to isolate Libya and rethink any trade deals with Tripoli.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, carrying out a mission to strengthen Turkey's ties with Islamic countries, visited Libya over the weekend to the dismay of secular-minded Turks and the United States, which brands Libya a terrorist state.

Mr. Erbakan and Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi agreed to triple trade

between their countries during the talks.

"Now it's time for Turkey to stand by the United States in our fight against Qadhafi ... to isolate him, to maintain the U.N. sanctions against Libya," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns told reporters Tuesday.

"If there was any commercial deal signed in Tripoli, it ought to be rethought by the Turkish government," Mr. Burns said.

Mr. Atacanli said Mr. Burns' statements were "unacceptable."

"Turkey attaches great importance to its alliance with the United States. But Turkish foreign policy has other facets too, and Turkey will run these as it sees fit," Mr. Atacanli said.

Mr. Erbakan also inflamed the United States by bashing it in statements made in Tripoli.

"We know Libya is against terrorism. We saw

the Libyan leader's bombed house (by U.S. jets in 1986). We have seen how it has been the victim of terrorism itself," Mr. Erbakan said.

"We strenuously disagree with remarks from Prime Minister Erbakan, which tried to diminish the role and the responsibility that Muammar Qadhafi has for international terrorism," Mr. Burns said.

Col. Qadhafi outraged Turks with its remarks in support of Kurdish rebels which both Turkey and the United States brands as terrorists.

Opposition parties have introduced a motion of no-confidence against Mr. Erbakan and his three-month-old coalition government, for allowing Turkey to be insulted by the Libyan leader and "humiliated" internationally.

COLUMN

Vietnamese jailed for selling women

HANOI (AFP) — A Vietnamese woman has been sentenced to 10 years in jail for selling women to China, a newspaper report said Wednesday. Between 1994 and 1996, Le Thi Kinh deceived nine women into moving to China where they were sold for 30,300 yuan (\$3,650) each, the Lao Dong newspaper reported. Ms. Kinh was arrested in June but her trial was delayed until recently, the newspaper said. Trafficking in women has emerged as a major problem, with numerous reports of women being sold as wives or to work as prostitutes in China. A major trade in sex workers has also emerged between Vietnam and China, Cambodia and Macau, according to newspaper reports.

Town orders horses put in diapers

MONTERREY, Mexico (R) — The Mexican town of Guadalupe has ordered the drivers of horse-drawn carts to put their horses in diapers by January or face a hefty fine, the El Diario De Monterrey reported Tuesday. Residents of Guadalupe, a suburb of the northern city of Monterrey, complained that excrement from horse-drawn vehicles used by poor merchants caused too much pollution. Local authorities slapped the diaper order on drivers, threatening fines of \$300 for non compliance, the newspaper said.

Drunk in charge

BRIEY, France (AFP) — A drunk had his driving licence confiscated when he arrived at a police station demanding to see a friend in custody, but had difficulty coming through the door, officials said Wednesday. The man was "blatantly drunk" when he tottered into the station in Trieux, eastern France, Tuesday, they said. He was immediately arrested, and will appear in court shortly. Police called a taxi to take him home.

Cow takes pool plunge

DRESDEN, Germany (AFP) — A wandering cow took a nocturnal plunge into a swimming pool at Bannewitz in eastern Germany at the weekend, severely damaging the pool, but survived the adventure unharmed, Dresden Police said Monday. Firemen had to use special equipment to lift the cow out of the pool.

140-year-old Jordanian dies; 200 children, grandchildren survive him

DEIR ABI SAID (Petra) — A 140-year-old man died on Tuesday in Koura district in Irbid Governorate. Mustafa Mohammad Rabayah was one of the district's oldest men with 200 sons, daughters and grandchildren. He enjoyed perfect health until his last breath.